

**SENATE . . . . . No. 63**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Nick Collins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 63**

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By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 63) of Nick Collins and Michael O. Moore for legislation to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry. Cannabis Policy.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to promote social equity and economic empowerment in the cannabis industry.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 64N of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding the following definition:-

3 (c) “Social Equity Business”, a marijuana establishment eligible for the Social Equity  
4 Program established in 935 CMR 500.105(17) or the Economic Empowerment Program as  
5 defined in 935 CMR 500.101(1)(e) or otherwise determined by the commission.

6 (d) “Social Equity Program” a program administered by the Commission to provide  
7 training and technical assistance to eligible applicants, potential applicants, and licensees from  
8 communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and  
9 enforcement or to municipalities seeking to initiate or improve social equity programming on the  
10 local level. This program includes a Social Equity Fund established and administered by the  
11 Commission.

12 SECTION 2. Subsection (a<sup>1/2</sup>) of Section 4 of chapter 94G of the General Laws, is hereby  
13 amended by striking clause (ii) and by inserting in place thereof the following clauses:-

14 (ii) a schedule of application, license and renewal fees in an amount necessary to pay for  
15 all regulation and enforcement costs of the commission including, but not limited to, the Social  
16 Equity Program; provided that not less than 2% of the funds generated by said fees shall go  
17 directly to funding the Social Equity Program through the Social Equity Fund; provided further  
18 however that fees may be relative to the volume of business conducted or to be conducted by the  
19 marijuana establishment; provided further that municipalities which create their own social  
20 equity program in compliance with the Commission's Social Equity Program will have the  
21 ability to apply to the fund.

22 SECTION 3. Section 16G of chapter 6A is hereby amended by inserting, following  
23 subsection (n), the following:-

24 (o) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a Cannabis  
25 Social Equity Loan Trust Fund for the purpose of making no-interest loans, forgivable loans, or  
26 grants to economic empowerment and social equity program participants to encourage the full  
27 participation of entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by  
28 previous marijuana prohibition and enforcement; provided further, however, that the fund  
29 administrator shall develop policies and procedures to forgive all or a portion of these loans  
30 subject to an analysis of anticipated revenues, demand, and lending projections. The fund shall  
31 be administered by the secretary of housing and economic development. The cannabis control  
32 commission shall promulgate guidelines governing the structure of the fund. The fund shall  
33 consist of revenues collected by the commonwealth including: (1) up to 25 per cent of revenue

34 generated by the Cannabis Excise Tax; provided that said revenue shall be deposited in the fund  
35 on a 1:1 basis relative to private funds received pursuant to (2); and (2) any funds from private  
36 sources such as gifts, grants, and donations.