



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

File #: R2019-850, **Version:** 1

Committee on Workforce Development

CITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS CITY
COUNCIL CITY HALL - ROOM 300 121 NORTH LASALLE
STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

ALDERMAN RODERICK T. SAWYER CHAIRMAN
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City Council Meeting January 15,2020

To Madam President and Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Health and Human Relations held a meeting on January 10, 2020 considering the following Items:

1. **02019-9156**
Amendment of Municipal Code Section 2-152-090 by adding Juneteenth as official City holiday and closure of municipal office in observance thereof. Re-Refer to Workforce Development Committee
2. **R2019-850**
Call for hearing(s) on women's role in cannabis industry. Re-Refer to Workforce Development Committee

begs leave to recommend that this Honorable Body pass said it will be Re-Refer to the Committee of Workforce Development in which is transmitted herewith.

This recommendation was concurred in by a viva voce vote of the Committee on Health and Human Relations.

RespectMfesubmitted,

Roderick T. Sawyer, Chairman Committee
on Health and Human Relations

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois approved the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705/) (the "Adult Use Cannabis Act"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago ("City") is a home rule municipality as described in Section 6(a) of Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois; and pursuant to its home rule power, the City may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs, including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago City Council ("City Council") approved the Amendment of Municipal Code Title 17 regarding cannabis-related activities; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council introduced an ordinance proposing an Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 7-23 by adding new Chapter 7-23 to prohibit certain Recreational Adult-Use Cannabis business establishments until June 2020, thereby giving the City Council additional time to evaluate the best course of action for the City's governance of businesses that may be established and activities that may be allowed as a result of the Adult Use Cannabis Act; and

WHEREAS, Recreational Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries may begin sales of recreational adult use cannabis on January 1, 2020, but all new operations must secure approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and whereas the Zoning Board of Appeals may be authorized to consider ownership and employment information as part of applications for special uses and variation for additional Recreational Adult Use Dispensaries; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Use Cannabis Act includes provisions designed to stimulate opportunities for ownership and employment by persons who live within Disproportionately Impacted Areas or who otherwise qualify as Social Equity Applicants as defined in the Adult Use Cannabis Act; and the City Council desires to take actions that will support opportunities for such persons; and

WHEREAS, many persons who live within Disproportionately Impacted Areas or who otherwise qualify as Social Equity Applicants are likely to be persons of color, and whereas women of color have suffered particularly adverse consequences as a result of the war on drugs; and

WHEREAS, women face gender-specific obstacles that reduce opportunities for women to become entrepreneurs and corporate leaders and that create complications that may adversely affect women's opportunities for employment; and

WHEREAS, women, and particularly women of color, face greater difficulties accessing traditional banking systems and capital for establishing businesses or paying for industry-specific job-training and advanced education; and

WHEREAS, the number of women working in the cannabis industry at management levels and entry levels has declined since 2015; and the City Council has a unique opportunity to ensure that women are well-represented in Chicago's emerging cannabis industry; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has established goals of developing a workforce that is prepared to undertake jobs in emerging industries, of increasing opportunities for employment within the City, and to stimulate economic growth in underserved neighborhoods, and the Adult Use Cannabis Act creates a unique opportunity for the City Council to advance these goals and to advance economic opportunities for persons who qualify as; and

WHEREAS, a guiding purpose of the cannabis legalization effort has been to ensure participation from all persons and City Council members desire to see women working in cannabis; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Members of the City Council hereby:

NAME

Alderman,:

- 1) Invite testimony from persons involved in the cannabis industry (both existing businesses
1) operating in the City and businesses that desire to open new operations within the City),
1) representing associations and organizations who provide advocacy related to the
1) cannabis industry, women who seek access to participate in the Adult Use Cannabis
1) industry, associations and organizations that advocate for women entrepreneurs and for
1) women's employment; and
- 2) Request information concerning barriers for entry for women, particularly women of color and women living in Disproportionally Impacted Areas, for participating in Chicago's emerging cannabis industry and suggestions on how to remedy these barriers, including how women, particularly women of color and women living in Disproportionally Impacted Areas, can secure access to capital as well as entry level and management positions working for cannabis companies; and
- 3) Secure information on health effects of recreational adult use cannabis on women's bodies and secure information on women-focused medical research on uses of medical cannabis for women's health; and
- 4) *Request that the committee that will conduct the hearing will develop a report of findings*

4) *and recommendations of actions that the City Council could undertake to assist women,*

4) *particularly women of color and women living in Disproportionally Impacted Areas^for*

4) *participating in Chicago's emerging cannabis industry.* yy/