



News Release

Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission
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Commissioners Hear Competing Testimony on Distilled Spirits Surcharge Increase

Cannabis and Liquor retailers report crime not receding

PORTLAND, Ore. – This week stakeholders weighed in on how the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) can best balance public health and business impacts while the OLCC contemplates whether or not to approve an additional 50 cents-per-bottle surcharge on distilled spirits.

At its monthly Commission meeting on **Thursday, April 20, 2023**, Commissioners [heard testimony](#) from distillers, liquor store owners, the hospitality industry and the public health community about doubling the surcharge, which would increase the total surcharge to \$1 per bottle.

In other business, the Board took action on rules affecting the cannabis industry, approved one alcohol licensee stipulated settlement agreement and were updated about continued property theft at liquor stores and licensed cannabis retailers.

The revenue generated by OLCC helps pay for public health and safety programs that directly benefit Oregonians. The Governor's 2023-2025 budget relies on the OLCC raising more revenue to help address addiction issues facing the state.

Commissioners asked both sides to provide additional data on possible outcomes and adverse impacts before they take action on the surcharge. The Commissioners are soliciting public feedback on the proposal in advance of voting on it this summer.

Theft at OLCC licensed cannabis retailers and liquor stores surged at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and during Portland street protests in 2020. The theft activity impacting OLCC regulated businesses matches business property theft trends statewide.

April 20, 2023
OLCC Commission Meeting

Both the Associated Liquor Store Owners, representing liquor store owners, and the Cannabis Industry Association of Oregon, representing licensed marijuana businesses, told the Board that the criminal behavior hasn't subsided. Representatives from both organizations asked the agency to look into additional law enforcement solutions to reduce the criminal activity.

To help the public monitor the impact of thefts, the OLCC has launched two dashboards to track the theft, one for [liquor stores](#), and another for [licensed cannabis businesses](#). Both can be found on the [OLCC website](#).

The Board also approved a temporary rule to extend to January 1, 2025 deadline for manufacturers of artificially derived cannabiniol (CBN) to come into compliance with artificially derived cannabinoid requirements, providing the industry an 18-month extension.

The Commission also ratified one stipulated settlement agreement for alcohol licensees. Detailed information on the specific cases below can be found [on the OLCC website](#):

Alcohol Stipulated Settlement Agreements

EASY MART (O) in Oregon City, will pay a \$2,750 fine OR serve an 11-day license suspension for one violation.

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