



August 25, 2023

To: Craig Prins, Interim Director, Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission
David Baden, Interim Director, Oregon Health Authority

From: Oregon Cannabis Commission

Re: Recommendations to OLCC regarding the Issuance of Research Certificates

Director Prins, Director Baden,

Introduction and background:

The [Oregon Cannabis Commission](#) (OCC) is legislatively tasked with ensuring cannabis remains a therapeutic option for Oregonians with debilitating medical conditions. One way the OCC fulfills this task is by facilitating cannabis research within the state of Oregon.

The current Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) Administrative Rules (OAR) and Statutes (ORS) regarding Research Certification inhibit rather than facilitate research. The recommendations proposed by the OCC will make it easier for individuals to conduct cannabis research in Oregon, especially with human participants.

The OCC requests the OLCC and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) review and promote the following recommendations. The OCC understands some of the recommendations would require legislative changes and invites the OLCC and OHA to include any legislators deemed relevant to this topic.

Recommendations:

1. Revise [OAR 845-025-1060](#) such that the \$250 application fee for the issuance of a Research Certificate is waived for:
 - Certain populations such as Oregon Native Tribal members who perform research.
 - Entities which already hold an OLCC cannabis license.
2. Revise [OAR 845-025-5300](#) to specify that Research Certificate issuance (the license itself) is not a fee-based program. If the Commission approves an application and grants a research license, Licensees are not required to pay a fee for the issuance of the Research Certificate itself.
 - Although it is appropriate for OLCC licensees and other parts of the OLCC to be fee-based, the OCC has deemed that it is not appropriate for research to be a fee-based program.

3. Revise [OAR 845-025-5300](#) to specify that the term of the Research Certificate is either three years, or the duration of the proposed study.
 - Research studies vary in duration, typically from one to five years.
4. Eliminate [ORS 475C.289\(7\)\(b\)](#), [OAR 845-025-5350\(2\)\(a\)\(A\)](#), which prevent Research Certificate holders from transferring cannabis products to human research participants.
 - In lieu of [ORS 475C.289\(7\)\(b\)](#), the commission and legislators may consider the following language: Is allowed to *transfer* marijuana, usable marijuana, cannabinoid products, cannabinoid concentrates or cannabinoid extracts to another certificate holder, another licensee, any member of the research team, or any research participant enrolled in an IRB-approved study. Certificate Holders may not *sell* marijuana, usable marijuana, cannabinoid products, cannabinoid concentrates or cannabinoid extracts to any other person, except as provided in this section and rules adopted by the commission under this section.
 - In lieu of [OAR 845-025-5350\(2\)\(a\)\(A\)](#), the commission and legislators may consider the following language: Sell or otherwise transfer marijuana items to any other person except when disposing of waste pursuant to OAR 845-025-7750, transferring to a member of the research team, transferring to a research participant enrolled in an IRB-approved study, transferring to another certificate holder or transferring to another licensee pursuant these rules.
5. Revise Rules to explicitly allow Research Certificate holders to transfer cannabis products directly to Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) patients AND research participants, not limited to OMMP cardholders.
 - Transfers may be allowed at no cost provided that the research is approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Please reach out to the OCC at oha.occ@odhsoha.oregon.gov with any questions or to set up a meeting to discuss next steps to accomplish these recommendations.

Respectfully,

Anthony Taylor, Chair
Dr. Adie Rae, Vice-chair
Oregon Cannabis Commission