



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON BANKS**

**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION,  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUBJECT:** Cannabis Banking in New York State

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the hearing is to examine how to establish a legal framework in providing banking services to cannabis businesses in New York State

**Albany**

Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Hearing Room C  
Legislative Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
10:00 A.M.

Recreational adult-use cannabis is now legal to cultivate, process, distribute and sell at retail to adults 21-years and older in New York State. However, cannabis is still labeled a controlled substance at the federal level, which results in restricted access to federally regulated banks and financial services. New York's adult-use cannabis businesses currently operate as cash-only businesses.

Operating a cash-only business raises challenges including security, payroll, access to loan-products, and recordkeeping. These challenges impact both the legal cannabis-related businesses and the banks seeking to provide services.

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Treasury issued guidance, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (Fin CEN), related to how financial institutions can provide services to the legal cannabis industry sector that are consistent with other banking requirements. On March 1st, 2023, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced plans before the U.S. Senate to reinstate protections outlined in the 2013 "Cole Memorandum," which provided states with regulated cannabis industries a limited pathway to conduct business. The states of California and Colorado, who have legalized recreational cannabis, have used Fin Cen guidance to authorize state-chartered banks and credit unions to provide cannabis businesses with essential banking services. The committees seek to analyze challenges and barriers to providing banking services to legal adult-use cannabis businesses and examine pathways to allowing banking services to the burgeoning cannabis industry in New York.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

To further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Pamela Hunter**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Banks**

**Harry Bronson**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry**

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PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on Cannabis Banking in New York State are requested to complete this reply form by Monday, May 8th and mail or email to:

Gerson Murillo  
Policy Analyst  
Assembly Committee on Banks  
Room 513 - Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: murillonunezg@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4857

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on providing banking services to Cannabis dispensaries to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Banks on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to **five minutes**, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_