

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8375--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

June 6, 2025

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the cannabis law, in relation to establishing the "small cannabis farmer relief act"; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "small  
2 cannabis farmer relief act".
- 3 § 2. The cannabis law is amended by adding a new section 68-c to read  
4 as follows:
- 5 § 68-c. Limited canopy expansion. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any  
6 provision of law to the contrary, any licensee who qualifies as a  
7 distressed farmer and legally cultivated cannabis during the two thou-  
8 sand twenty-two or two thousand twenty-three calendar year shall be  
9 eligible to expand their canopy as provided in this subdivision.
- 10 (b) Licensees shall be eligible to expand their cultivation canopy to  
11 up to twice the maximum square footage cultivated in two thousand twen-  
12 ty-two or two thousand twenty-three, provided that the expanded area  
13 shall not exceed the maximum limits established by the corresponding  
14 cultivation tier.
- 15 (c) Verification of canopy cultivated in two thousand twenty-two or  
16 two thousand twenty-three shall be submitted to the office in a form  
17 prescribed by the office. Denials of applications under this subdivision  
18 may be appealed to the cannabis control board.
- 19 (d) No additional fees shall be assessed for canopy expansions author-  
20 ized pursuant to this subdivision, including standard license renewal  
21 fees.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (e) Microbusiness licensees who previously held an adult-use condi-  
2 tional cultivator license shall also be eligible for canopy expansion  
3 under this section.

4 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no licensee shall  
5 be authorized to expand their canopy beyond the maximum cultivation  
6 canopy size currently permitted under this chapter and any rules or  
7 regulations promulgated thereunder.

8 3. Any canopy expansion pursuant to this section shall remain subject  
9 to compliance with all applicable environmental, security, and testing  
10 regulations.

11 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire December  
12 31, 2028 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed  
13 repealed.