

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

October 14, 2026

Note: *These are draft policy recommendations informed by discussions from subcommittee meetings and general Council meetings. These are not final recommendations but instead a starting point for the Public Safety Subcommittee to discuss and help inform the final report.



REVISIT RECS. FROM COUNCIL

Recommendation 1: Prohibit public consumption of THC

Possible exceptions- THC beverages, edibles?

Recommendation 2: Brightline Vehicle Rule

Prohibit consumption (drivers and passengers) of THC in moving OR parked motor vehicle

Prohibit open THC **container** in the passenger area

Container v. package- will making this word change solve the issue?

Recommendation 3: Do not authorize consumption lounges

Recommendation 4: Preserve private housing authority

Recommendation 5: Use civil infractions and fines as the default enforcement mechanism

RECOMMENDATION 5 (FROM COUNCIL)

Civil infractions and fines as the default enforcement mechanism.

Options

- Civil infractions for retail establishments
- Asset forfeitures
- Criminal citations/arrests for individuals
- Other?

NEW RECOMMENDATION- A

LEGAL ALLOWANCE OPTION 1

Up to 1 oz of marijuana;

Expunctions of misdemeanor convictions
(.5 oz or less);

NEW Misdemeanor possession= 1-1.5 oz;

Felony possession= over 1.5 oz

LEGAL ALLOWANCE OPTION 2

Up to 1.5 oz of marijuana;

Expunctions of misdemeanor convictions
(1.5 oz or less);

No misdemeanor possession

Felony possession= over 1.5 oz

NEW RECOMMENDATION- B

Per Say Limits

Recommendation: Mirroring the majority of US states that do not rely on a blood number, it is recommended that North Carolina adopt an effects-based standard for drugged driving (DUID) law.

Under this model, convictions would require the state to prove impairment through:

- Officer testimony,
- Field sobriety test results,
- Driving behavior, and/or
- DRE evaluations

NEW RECOMMENDATION- C

Curb Illicit Market

- Prohibit online sales
- Permitting & inspections to ensure products in legal markets are lawful
- Continue enforcement of illegal outlets

NEW RECOMMENDATION- D

Retail Outlet Location Limitations

From school or house of worship:

- 500 feet- AK, MA, MT, NY, RI, VT
- 600 feet- CA
- 1,000 feet- ME, MI, NV, OR, WA

Limit can be decreased by local ordinance- MA, ME, MI, OR, RI, WA

Recommendation: Prohibit cannabis retail outlets within 1000 feet of school (elementary or secondary education), daycare/childcare centers, playgrounds, public parks, and places of worship.

This is, generally, in keeping with current NCGS re: sale of controlled substances

NEW RECOMMENDATION- E

Statutory Suggestions:

- NCGS should include only what is ALLOWED, not what is prohibited

The rapid infusion of new products into the market would make keeping up with a prohibited item list nearly impossible.

Expungements-

covered by Legal subcommittee

NEXT MEETING

October 28, 2026

****1:00–3:00pm****

****Please note this extended time.****

Speakers

Kenny Benfield, Forensic Branch Head, Forensic Tests for Alcohol Program Manager, DHHS

Mike Hanson, Director, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (tentative)

Topics

Oral Fluid Testing

Roadside Testing

Additional Recommendations