

Statement of Expedited Regulations

These expedited administrative regulations are being promulgated in order to address direct health, welfare, and safety concerns of the Band in accordance with Section 3.04 of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Cannabis Regulatory Act (“Act”). The Act was originally enacted on August 31, 2023 and legalizes the cultivation, processing, dispensing, and use of cannabis on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation. The Act empowers the Leech Lake Cannabis Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) to implement and oversee the Band’s cannabis program, including promulgating regulations for safe and secure cannabis operations in accordance with the Cole and Wilkinson Memo Guidance Priorities. Initial regulations were adopted on March 20, 2024.

Since that time, cannabis policy has evolved both nationally and locally. It has become apparent that additional clarification and detail are needed to ensure continued adherence to the Cole and Wilkinson Memo Guidance Priorities, as well as applicable tribal, state, and federal law. These administrative regulations are being filed on an expedited basis so that existing businesses have greater clarity on their ongoing responsibilities for licensure, and so prospective cannabis businesses have an opportunity to review and understand the application process, requirements, and responsibilities of licensure in advance of a January application period. These expedited regulations will be replaced by ordinary administrative regulations, which are being filed contemporaneously herewith. The companion ordinary administrative regulations are identical to these expedited regulations.