



WASHINGTON STATE

CANNABIS COMMISSION

Overview

(Presented by the WSCC Action Committee)

Primary Objectives:

The primary objective of the WSCC is to fund and supervise cannabis research relating to the safe production of the commodity. Education of licensees, the public and other agencies concerning this research are also main objectives. Objectives are focused to be of direct benefit to cannabis producers in the state.

How will the WSCC be formed?

WSCC will be formed via statute (like the Wine and Beer Commissions) and will come into existence after passage by the Washington State House and Senate and the Governor's signature. It will be led by WSDA's Director with seated representation of stakeholders from across the state.

The WSCC bill was fashioned with WSDA guidance after those of [other commodity commissions](#) with consideration of the highly regulated commodity it will oversee. The commission bill language has been vetted by the WSDA, the WSDR, Treasury, Office of Finance and the state Attorney General's Office (AGO) along with input from the governor's office.

Will the WSCC be allowed to fund marketing like some other agricultural commissions?

No. Some commissions do only marketing (Apple Commission) others are formed to do only research (Tree Fruit Commission). Traditional marketing or other promotional activities will need to be amended into the bill once changes in state and federal laws allow that activity.

How will the WSCC be funded?

Commissions are funded by producer assessments. Commissions are assessed on production weight or sales. Government and private grants and other types of contributions (ie: use of University interns, labs, etc.) are also a major funding source for commissions. WSCC will be funded from assessments based upon sale figures vs production weights. It is assumed that WSCC will not have the luxury of government grants nor the ability to rely upon University and USDA staff and facilities until the Federal atmosphere improves. Private grants may also be a source of WSCC funding.

What are the WSCC assessment rates and who is assessed?

The assessment rates are set as a surcharge on the Business and Occupation tax and paid at the same time as B&O. Producers or Producer/Processors pay assessments. Processor only licensees are not assessed; the bulk product they purchase will be assessed to the licensee that grew the material. Retailers are not assessed.

EXAMPLE OF ASSESSMENTS

Product Type:	Monthly Sales:	Assessment Rate:	Due
Product not ready for Consumer	\$100,000	x .29% (.0029)	\$290.00
Product Ready for Consumer	\$100,000	x .145% (.00145)	\$145.00

How are assessments collected and paid?

The Department of Revenue is tasked to make the assessment collection at the time of B&O payments.

If I do not sell any part of my harvest, is there any assessment?

No. Assessments are made only upon the sale of cannabis. No sale, no assessment.

Are there any exemptions for assessments?

Yes. The legislation establishes there will be no assessments on certain transfers such as vendor samples, lab and R&D samples nor on donations to lawful recipients.

Who will sit on the board of the WSCC and how are members of the board elected?

There will be 13 members of the board; 12 stakeholders plus the WSDA Director. Initially, the WSDA director will assign seats to get the board active as soon as the statute is enacted; followed by producer elections in subsequent years based upon a geographical basis. Each board member is entitled to one (1) vote. For purposes of WSCC elections, the state is divided into four (4) Districts, each of which will elect two (2) representatives. Four seats will be held by at-large Statewide elections. Provisions ensure at least one (1) representative of each Tier (or likewise business designation) has a voting position on the WSCC at all times. Seats up for election will be staggered so 1/3 of the board is up for re-election each year. Members serve a 3 year term. Advisory seats will be appointed by the Director and held by representatives of the WSLCB, a Processor, a Retailer and a Testing Lab for 1 year terms.

List of Counties Comprising the Four (4) Voting Districts for the WSCC - *District Map*

District No. 1: Seats #1 & #2 comprises the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Jefferson, Island, San Juan, and Clallam.

District No. 2: Seats #3 & #4 comprises the counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille.

District No. 3: Seats #5 & #6 comprises the counties of Lincoln, Yakima, Spokane, Adams, Whitman, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin.

District No. 4: Seats #7 & #8 comprises the counties of Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat.

Statewide: Seats #9 at large, #10 Tier 1*, #11 Tier 2*, #12 Tier 3* (* or likewise sized business')

What is some research other commissions have accomplished to their benefit?

- Pesticide Research & Training
- Environmental Conservation
- Labor Conservation
- Recycle Programs
- Grading & Valuations
- Establish Safe Practices
- Breeding Programs for yield, diversity, disease resistance, terroir, etc
- Soil Research

What are some research topics needed specifically for cannabis?

- Cannabinoid & Terpene Production
- Sampling/Testing Procedures
- Packaging for Preservation
- Tissue Culture Program
- Odor Mitigation
- Mold/Mildew Prevention

*Thank you for taking the time to better understand how a Cannabis Commission can help your business thrive!
You may reach the WSCC Action Committee at washingtonstatecannabiscommission@gmail.com*