

The **Final Report - Cannabis Hospitality Task Force** outlines the discussions, findings, and recommendations of the task force regarding the establishment of cannabis hospitality businesses in Maine. Here are the key proposed changes and findings:

## **Key Findings and Recommendations:**

### **1. Business Models for Cannabis Hospitality:**

- The most supported models were:
  - On-site consumption at **cannabis-specific events** (e.g., trade shows, competitions).
  - **Traditional consumption lounges** (similar to cigar bars).
- Other models considered with mixed support included cannabis-friendly accommodations (e.g., bed & breakfasts) and cannabis-infused dining experiences.
- The "**Bring Your Own Cannabis**" (BYOC) model was **rejected** in favor of regulated on-site sales.

### **2. Regulating Consumption Methods:**

- **Edibles and infused beverages were widely supported**, especially nano-emulsified drinks for controlled consumption.
- **Smoking and vaping indoors sparked debate** due to concerns over Maine's indoor smoking laws and air quality.
- If allowed, **strict ventilation and air quality standards** would be necessary.

### **3. Employee Training Requirements:**

- **Mandatory "safe server" training** for employees to recognize impairment and ensure responsible service.
- Training similar to alcohol server certification programs.

### **4. Local Control & Licensing:**

- Municipalities should **opt-in** before cannabis hospitality establishments can operate.
- Unclear licensing structure, but proposals included:
  - Temporary event permits.
  - Endorsements for existing adult-use cannabis licensees.
  - New standalone licenses for cannabis hospitality businesses.

### **5. Highway Safety Concerns:**

- Task force recommended **impaired driving education programs** and policies to mitigate risks, including serving size limits and waiting periods before driving.

### **6. Liability & Insurance Challenges:**

- Need for **cannabis dram shop liability laws**, similar to alcohol regulations.
- Concerns over **insurance coverage for cannabis hospitality businesses** due to federal prohibition.

### **7. Outstanding Issues:**

- Conflicts with existing **Maine smoking laws** regarding indoor cannabis consumption.
- **Funding and resources** required for enforcement, training, and consumer education.
- **Lack of market data** on consumer demand for cannabis hospitality in Maine.

## **Conclusion:**

The report recommends **further study and public surveys** before drafting legislation, particularly on licensing, insurance, and demand. While there is strong industry interest, significant regulatory and public health concerns remain unresolved.