

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2697 (Pellerin) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 17 - 2

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes a local jurisdiction to allow a licensed cannabis retailer or microbusiness that conducts storefront retail sales to conduct sales through a drive-through if specified conditions are met.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Allows a local jurisdiction to authorize a licensed cannabis retailer or microbusiness that conducts storefront retail sales from a premises to sell cannabis or cannabis products to a customer in a motor vehicle in a drive-through on the premises.
- 2) Requires drive-through sales to occur through a fixed-pane security window with a security drawer or similar secure transfer mechanism that is part of a building located within the premises; exempts from these requirements a retailer that conducted retail sales through a drive-through in compliance with state and local law before January 1, 2027.
- 3) Prohibits a retailer that conducts sales exclusively through delivery or that does not maintain a premises open to the public for retail sales from operating a drive-through.
- 4) Requires sales conducted through a drive-through to comply with MAUCRSA and any regulations adopted by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC).

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

DCC anticipates absorbable costs.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California cannabis retailers lack a common and accessible transaction path for consumers afforded so many other retailers in California, including fast food, pharmacies, banks, and even liquor stores. Cannabis consumers who have mobility issues or other disabilities have limited options for being able to obtain cannabis without having to step out of their vehicles. And while home delivery is legal, there are service area restrictions. Allowing cannabis retailers to add the consumer-friendly option of a secured drive through, if approved by

the local jurisdiction, will enhance the consumer experience, increase safety at cannabis retailers, and help expand California's legal cannabis marketplace.

2) **Opposition.** The California Narcotic Officers' Association writes in opposition:

While intended to promote convenience, this retail model introduces elevated risks related to impaired driving, regulatory compliance, crime exposure, and traffic safety. Importantly, no similar statute authorizes drive-thru window liquor sales. Drive-thru window cannabis sales create a direct nexus between purchase and vehicle operations. This will increase the likelihood of drug-impaired driving incidents and deaths by encouraging the immediate or near-immediate consumption following the purchase of edible & high-potency products resulting in dangerous impairment.

3) **Prior Legislation.** AB 2824 (M. Bonta), of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, would have authorized cannabis retailers to offer curbside pickup. AB 2824 was referred to, but did not receive a hearing in, the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081