



Louisiana - State Specific Information

Information provided is current as of January 8, 2026, and companies are encouraged to consult with legal counsel on these types of complex matters.

Cannabis Legalization History

Medical Use	2015 - (Act 261)
Recreational Use	Not legal - Possession of 14g or less is decriminalized statewide (maximum \$100 fine/no jail).
Possession/Personal Use Specifics	Medical cannabis patients may possess up to 2.5 ounces (71g) of raw flower every 14 days. Flower, vapes, and edibles are all legal for patients. However, flower can only be recommended to patients 21 and older unless specifically authorized by a physician for a minor.
Home cultivation and public consumption is illegal in Louisiana for anyone, even medical cannabis patients.	

State Regulatory Agency Information

State Regulatory Agency	Louisiana Department of Health
State Forms (If Applicable)	None Specified

State Testing Policy

General Information	Louisiana employers can conduct pre-employment, random, and reasonable suspicion testing. Remains an "employment-at-will" state; private companies not required to accommodate medical cannabis and can terminate for a positive THC test. As of 2026, state and local government employers are prohibited from discriminating against or terminating employees solely for being a medical cannabis patient or testing positive for THC, unless the employee is in a safety-sensitive role. *Remember, establishing robust documentation is a key risk mitigant for employers in states like Louisiana.
Safety Sensitive Positions	Under R.S. 49:1016 , medical protections exclude first responders (Police, Fire, EMS), state vehicle operators, federal security clearance holders, and Horse Racing Commission staff. These safety-sensitive roles remain subject to zero-tolerance policies.
Privacy Laws	Drug testing information is confidential. Results can only be used in legal proceedings related to the employment action (e.g., unemployment hearings) and cannot be disclosed to third parties without written consent.