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# Cannabis Expungement Board

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# Cannabis Expungement Board — Agency Profile

https://mn.gov/ceb/

## AT A GLANCE

- Created by the Adult-Use Cannabis Act of 2023, the Cannabis Expungement Board (CEB) was created to review eligible felony and certain misdemeanor level cannabis-related convictions and stays of adjudication cases to determine eligibility for expungement, vacation and dismissal, or resentencing.
- Intended to positively impact people with cannabis-related criminal records whose offenses are no longer a crime or are a lesser offense under current law.
- Responsible for reviewing a minimum of 98,000 past felony-level criminal convictions for cannabis-related offenses under prior law.

## PURPOSE

The Cannabis Expungement Board (CEB) was established with the passage of the Adult-Use Cannabis Act (the Act) of 2023 that legalized the use, sale, and possession of cannabis flower and cannabinoid products. The Act tasks the CEB with reviewing past felony and certain misdemeanor cannabis-related convictions to determine whether the records related to the convictions should be expunged under the statutory criteria and the conviction vacated and dismissed or, if expungement is not in the public interest, whether the individual should be sentenced to a lesser offense.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has determined that there are approximately 98,000 felony cannabis-related criminal convictions. The work of the CEB requires extensive review and analysis of available records, including the solicitation of law enforcement and victim input. The CEB is now fully staffed with protocols in place to allow an orderly and efficient review of the caseload.

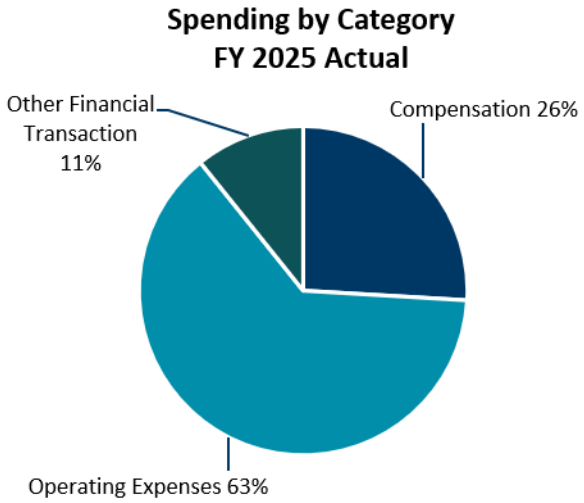
The Cannabis Expungement Board is comprised of:

- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or a designee;
- The Attorney General or a designee;
- One public defender, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the State Public Defender;
- The Commissioner of Corrections or a designee; and
- One public member with relevant experience, appointed by the Governor.

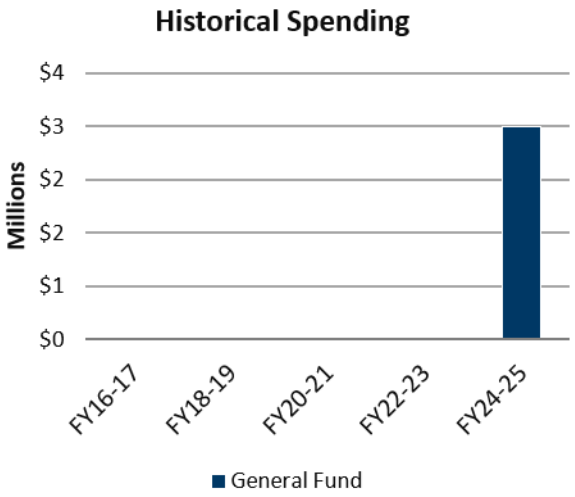
The CEB will operate until all cases have been reviewed and the Board has determined it has completed its work.

## BUDGET

The general fund appropriation in fiscal year (FY) 2025 for the Cannabis Expungement Board was $4.356 million.




***Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)***




***Source: Consolidated Fund Statement***

## STRATEGIES

The CEB has identified the following strategies to accomplish its mission:

- The CEB has invested significant time developing effective case review strategies and processes to align with the statutory requirements.
- The CEB established and trained a team of legal professionals who efficiently and thoroughly review cases and prepare summaries of the case for the agency's Board to review.
- The CEB is also dedicated to community engagement efforts to expedite relief to qualified recipients by educating communities throughout Minnesota about the nature and purpose of its work.
- The CEB holds public meetings where the board takes formal action on a review of a conviction or stay of adjudication. In addition, the CEB assigns anonymous, unique identifiers to each victim of a crime and person whose conviction or stay of adjudication the board reviews.

## RESULTS

**Part A: Performance Data**

| Measure name | Measure type | Measure data source | Historical trend | Most recent data |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of cases with a preliminary review | Quantity | CEB data | N/A | Through August 2026 - 13,062 |
| Number of cases determined not to be cannabis offense or that otherwise are ineligible for expungement* | Results | CEB data | N/A | Through August 2026 - 6,618 |
| Number of cases with a reviewed by the board CEB determination [or that are voted on by the CEB] | Results | CEB data | N/A | Through August 2026 - 731 cases |
| Number of cases where the courts have issued an Expungement Order | Results | CEB data | N/A | Through August 2026 - 676 cases |

*Prior to the 2023 Adult-Use Cannabis Act, offenses for controlled substance crimes did not distinguish between the type of controlled substance involved in the offense. This requires review of the records in each case to determine whether the conviction was for cannabis or another controlled substance.

**Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness**

Expungement of cannabis-related criminal records for convictions that are no longer criminal offenses can remove barriers related to housing, professional licensure, and employment. According to Gersten et al. (2025)[1], cannabis-related criminal records can have harmful, lifelong consequences. They explain that "a criminal record can lead to significant barriers to employment, exacerbating the challenges of reentry and increasing the chances of recidivism" (Gersten et al., 2025, p. 279). Through expungement, the CEB is helping to remove these barriers for individuals.

The CEB does not currently have a mechanism to obtain data on specific individuals after relief has been granted. As a result, while the CEB can report on the number of expungements processed, it cannot assess longer-term outcomes such as improvements in employment, housing stability, educational opportunities, or other indicators of personal and economic well-being.

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M.S. 609A (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statues/cite/609A) provides the legal authority for the Cannabis Expungement Board.

[1] Gersten, S., Rochas, A., & Stiefel, F. (2025). The promise and pitfalls of cannabis record clearance: A case study. *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, 22*, 273–309.