

BUILDING OREGON'S CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT, AND APPLICATIONS

OLCC | March 19, 2025



HOUSE BILL 2931 – SUMMARIZED

Cannabis reference laboratory creation:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission, will establish a **cannabis reference laboratory (CRL)**.

General purpose:

- The bill aims to improve testing accuracy and ensure consistency across the state's marijuana and hemp testing ecosystems

Laboratory functions:

- The CRL will support regulatory enforcement and technical operations for marijuana and hemp testing
- The CRL will verify existing testing methods and develop new analytical methods for marijuana and hemp product testing

82nd OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2023 Regular Session

Enrolled House Bill 2931

Sponsored by Representatives MORGAN, MARSH (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to cannabis; creating new provisions; amending ORS 475C.009, 475C.017, 475C.021, 475C.025, 475C.037, 475C.045, 475C.053, 475C.061, 475C.157, 475C.177, 475C.225, 475C.249, 475C.261, 475C.265, 475C.273, 475C.285, 475C.473, 475C.477, 475C.485, 475C.509, 475C.517, 475C.544 and 475C.548; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY

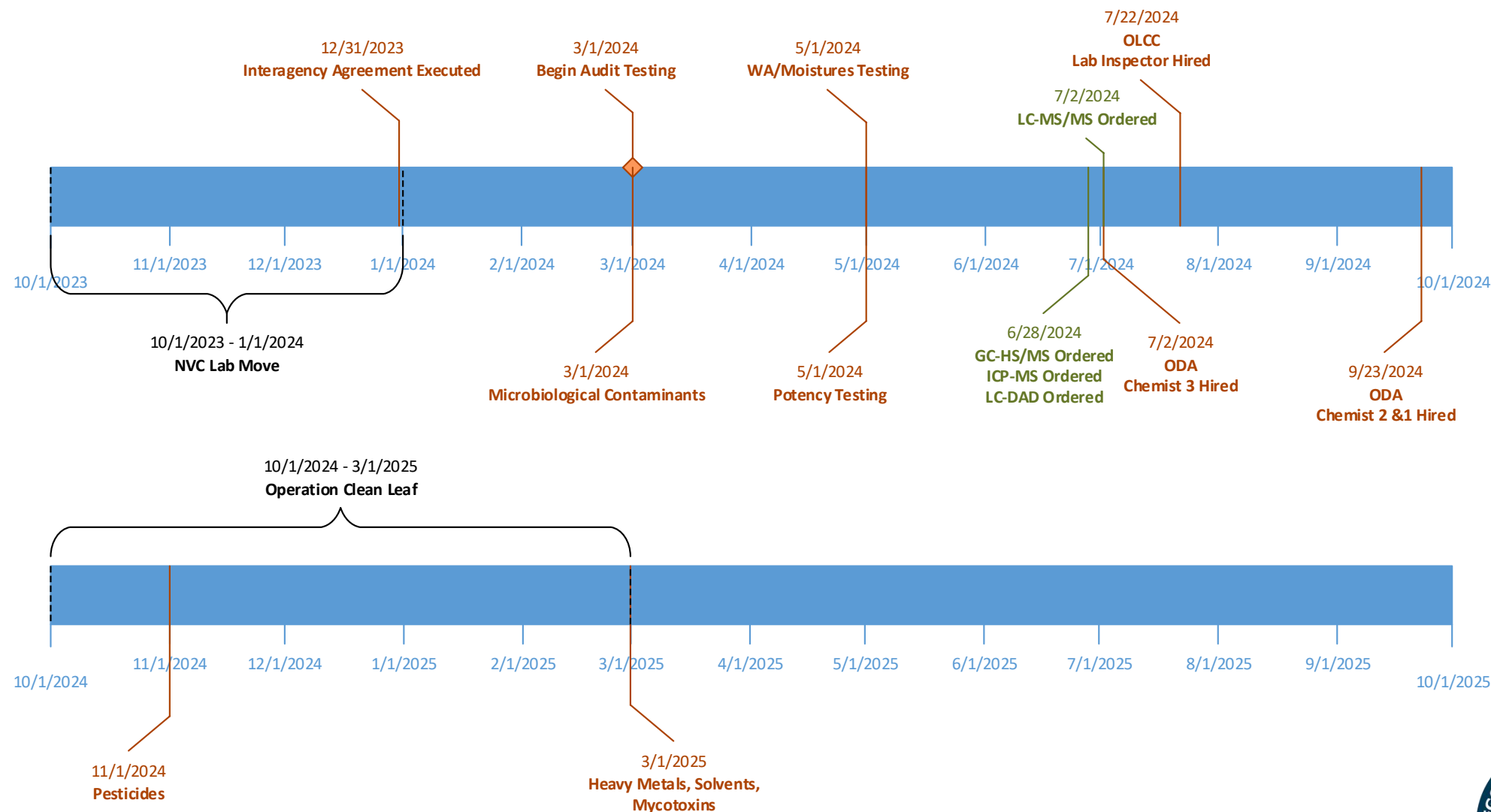
SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 475C.005 to 475C.525.

SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, shall establish a cannabis reference laboratory to provide regulatory and technical support in the enforcement of ORS 475C.005 to 475C.525, 475C.540 to 475C.586, 475C.600 to 475C.648, 475C.770 to 475C.919 and 571.260 to 571.348.

(2)(a) The cannabis reference laboratory established under subsection (1) of this section must be able to verify current analytical methods, and develop new analytical methods, for testing marijuana items, industrial hemp and industrial hemp commodities or products as described in ORS 475C.544, 571.281, 571.330 or 571.333 and confirm test results from laboratories licensed under ORS 475C.548 or accredited under ORS 475C.560 at the request of the authority, commission or department.

(b) At the request of the authority, commission or department, the cannabis reference laboratory must be able to provide ongoing laboratory quality control samples to laboratories licensed under ORS 475C.548 or accredited under ORS 475C.560.

REFERENCE LAB DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



REFERENCE LAB DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE – MAJOR MILESTONES



ODA moved their regulatory lab services into the North Valley Complex in December of 2023.

OLCC & ODA began having live cannabis samples tested in May of 2024.

We have worked together to have **over 150** samples delivered to the lab last year and 300 potentially by end of biennium and are working on a large investigative report regarding the outcome of that testing.

CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY - PRIORITIES

Support public health and safety: focus on detecting harmful contaminants like pesticides, heavy metals, residual solvents, mycotoxins, and microbial contaminants that could pose risk to consumers.

Aid cannabis product recalls: assist in identifying, verifying, and supporting recall efforts for cannabis products that fail to meet safety and quality standards.

Ensure testing consistency across labs: monitor and promote consistency in testing results among licensed laboratories through proficiency testing and cross-lab comparison studies.



CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY – COLLABORATING TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY



ODA pesticide audit testing resulted in the discovery of a batch marijuana being found to have a pesticide nearly 10x the **OHA** established action level that was being sold to consumers. **OLCC** worked with the licensee to immediately recall the product on 12/23/24.

CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY – UPDATED COST ESTIMATE



ODA has updated the cost estimate to \$1.4 million in 2025-27 to account for three items.

- . Inclusion of supplies for lab testing
- Updated personnel costs now that all staff are hired
- Addition of indirect rate charged by ODA for external work. Same rate is charged to federal grants

CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY – ITEMS FOR FUTHER CONSIDERATION

Two items

- Should testing rates change depending on findings?
- Current cost estimates do not account for capital depreciation.
 - Inclusion of those costs would raise the estimate and may not match acutals
 - Exclusion would require further discussions between the agencies as costs or more fully known



CANNABIS REFERENCE LABORATORY – LOOKING FORWARD



What is on the horizon?

OLCC and **ODA** staff are working with other cannabis reference labs around the country to collaborate on larger scale projects to tackle major regulatory issues facing the national cannabis industry.

Heavy Metals and Solvent testing in cannabis products this year.

Standardized Method development for potency testing in Cannabis flower

CANNABIS REFERENCE LAB Q&A

