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DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 17

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE CREATING THE DELAWARE MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend Title 16 of the Delaware Code by adding a new Chapter 49A to read as follows:

2 "Chapter 49A. The Delaware Medical Marijuana Act

3 §4901A. Findings.

4 (a) Marijuana's recorded use as a medicine goes back nearly 5,000 years. Modern medical research has confirmed  
5 the beneficial uses for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain, nausea, and other symptoms associated with a variety of  
6 debilitating medical conditions, including cancer, multiple sclerosis, and HIV/AIDS, as found by the National Academy of  
7 Sciences' Institute of Medicine in March 1999.

8 (b) Studies published since the 1999 Institute of Medicine report have continued to show the therapeutic value of  
9 marijuana in treating a wide array of debilitating medical conditions. These include relief of the neuropathic pain caused by  
10 multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, and other illnesses that often fails to respond to conventional treatments and relief of nausea,  
11 vomiting, and other side effects of drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, increasing the chances of patients  
12 continuing on life-saving treatment regimens. Specifically, in February 2010, the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research  
13 released a lengthy report that summarized 15 recent studies clearly demonstrating marijuana's medical efficacy for a broad  
14 range of conditions. These studies, many of which were double blind, placebo-controlled trials, included neuropathic pain  
15 trials published in the Journal of Pain, Neuropsychopharmacology and Neurology, a study on the analgesic efficacy of  
16 smoked marijuana published in Anesthesiology, a study on the mechanisms of cannabinoid analgesia in rats published in  
17 Pain, and a study on vaporization as a "smokeless" marijuana delivery system published in Clinical Pharmacology &  
18 Therapeutics.

19 (c) Marijuana has many currently accepted medical uses in the United States, having been recommended by  
20 thousands of licensed physicians to at least 350,000 patients in states with medical marijuana laws. Marijuana's medical  
21 utility has been recognized by a wide range of medical and public health organizations, including the American Academy

22 of HIV Medicine, the American College of Physicians, the American Nurses Association, the American Public Health  
23 Association and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

24 (d) Data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports and the Compendium of Federal  
25 Justice Statistics show that approximately 99 out of every 100 marijuana arrests in the U.S. are made under state law, rather  
26 than under federal law. Consequently, changing state law will have the practical effect of protecting from arrest the vast  
27 majority of seriously ill patients who have a medical need to use marijuana.

28 (e) Alaska, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New  
29 Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Washington have removed state-level criminal penalties from  
30 the medical use of marijuana. Delaware joins in this effort for the health and welfare of its citizens.

31 (f) States are not required to enforce federal law or prosecute people for engaging in activities prohibited by  
32 federal law. Therefore, compliance with this act does not put the state of Delaware in violation of federal law.

33 (g) State law should make a distinction between the medical and non-medical uses of marijuana. Hence, the  
34 purpose of this act is to protect patients with debilitating medical conditions, as well as their physicians and providers, from  
35 arrest and prosecution, criminal and other penalties, and property forfeiture if such patients engage in the medical use of  
36 marijuana.

37 §4902A. Definitions.

38 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

39 (a) "Cardholder" means a qualifying patient or a designated caregiver who has been issued and possesses a valid  
40 registry identification card.

41 (b) "Compassion center agent" means a principal officer, board member, employee, or agent of a registered  
42 compassion center who is 21 years of age or older and has not been convicted of an excluded felony offense.

43 (c) "Debilitating medical condition" means one or more of the following:

44 (1) cancer, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome,  
45 hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Crohn's disease, agitation of Alzheimer's disease, post-traumatic stress  
46 disorder, or the treatment of these conditions;

47 (2) a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces one or more of the  
48 following: cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe, debilitating pain, that has not responded to previously prescribed  
49 medication or surgical measures for more than three months or for which other treatment options produced serious  
50 side effects; severe nausea; seizures; or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to those  
51 characteristic of multiple sclerosis;

52 (3) glaucoma, when the written certification is signed by a properly licensed ophthalmologist subject to  
53 Chapter 17, Title 24 of the Delaware Code; or

54 (4) any other medical condition or its treatment added by the Department, as provided for in §4906A.

55 (d) "Department" means the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services or its successor agency.

56 (e) "Designated caregiver" means a person who:

57 (1) is at least 21 years of age;

58 (2) has agreed to assist with a patient's medical use of marijuana;

59 (3) has not been convicted of an excluded felony offense; and

60 (4) assists no more than five qualifying patients with their medical use of marijuana.

61 (f) "Enclosed, locked facility" means a greenhouse, building, or other enclosed area equipped with locks or other  
62 security devices that is on a registered compassion center's property and permits access only the compassion center agents  
63 working for the registered compassion center.

64 (g) "Excluded felony offense" means:

65 (1) a violent crime defined in Title 11, §4214(b), that was classified as a felony in the jurisdiction where  
66 the person was convicted; or

67 (2) a violation of a state or federal controlled substance law that was classified as a felony in the  
68 jurisdiction where the person was convicted, not including:

69 a. an offense for which the sentence, including any term of probation, incarceration, or  
70 supervised release, was completed 10 or more years earlier; or

71 b. an offense that consisted of conduct for which this chapter would likely have prevented a  
72 conviction, but the conduct either occurred prior to the enactment of this chapter or was  
73 prosecuted by an authority other than the state of Delaware.

74 (h) "Marijuana" has the meaning given that term in Title 16, §4701(23).

75 (i) "Medical use" means the acquisition; administration; delivery; possession; transportation; transfer;  
76 transportation; or use of marijuana or paraphernalia relating to the administration of marijuana to treat or alleviate a  
77 registered qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the patient's debilitating medical  
78 condition.

79 (j) "Physician" means a properly licensed physician subject to Chapter 17 and Chapter 19, Title 24 of the  
80 Delaware Code except as otherwise provided in this subsection. If the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition is  
81 post-traumatic stress disorder, the physician must also be a licensed psychiatrist. If the qualifying patient's debilitating

82 medical condition is glaucoma, the physician must also be a licensed ophthalmologist subject to Chapter 17, Title 24 of the  
83 Delaware Code. In relation to a visiting qualifying patient, "physician" means a person who is licensed with authority to  
84 prescribe drugs to humans and who may issue a written certifications or its equivalent in the state of the patient's residence.

85 (k)"Qualifying patient" means a person who has been diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating medical  
86 condition.

87 (l) "Registered compassion center" means a not-for-profit entity registered pursuant to §4914A that acquires,  
88 possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, sells, supplies, or dispenses marijuana, paraphernalia, or  
89 related supplies and educational materials to registered qualifying patients.

90 (m) "Registry identification card" means a document issued by the Department that identifies a person as a  
91 registered qualifying patient or registered designated caregiver.

92 (n) "Registered safety compliance facility" means a nonprofit entity registered under §4915A by the Department  
93 to provide one or more of the following services: testing marijuana produced for medical use for potency and  
94 contaminants; and training cardholders and prospective compassion center agents. The training may include, but need not  
95 be limited to, information related to one or more of the following:

- 96 (1) the safe and efficient cultivation, harvesting, packaging, labeling, and distribution of marijuana;
- 97 (2) security and inventory accountability procedures; and
- 98 (3) up-to-date scientific and medical research findings related to medical marijuana.

99 (o) "Safety compliance facility agent" means a principal officer, board member, employee, or agent of a registered  
100 safety compliance facility who is 21 years of age or older and has not been convicted of an excluded felony offense.

101 (p) "Usable marijuana" means the flowers of the marijuana plant and any mixture or preparation thereof, but does  
102 not include the seeds, stalks, and roots of the plant. It does not include the weight of any non-marijuana ingredients  
103 combined with marijuana, such as ingredients added to prepare a topical administration, food, or drink.

104 (q) "Verification system" means a phone or Web-based system established and maintained by the Department that  
105 is available to law enforcement personnel and compassion center agents on a twenty-four-hour basis for verification of  
106 registry identification cards.

107 (r) "Visiting qualifying patient" means a person who:

- 108 (1) has been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition;
- 109 (2) possesses a valid registry identification card, or its equivalent, that was issued pursuant to the laws of  
110 another state, district, territory, commonwealth, insular possession of the United States or country recognized by  
111 the United States that allows the person to use marijuana for medical purposes in the jurisdiction of issuance; and

112 (3) is not a resident of Delaware or who has been a resident of Delaware for less than 30 days.

113 (s) "Written certification" means a document dated and signed by a physician, stating that in the physician's  
114 professional opinion the patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of marijuana to  
115 treat or alleviate the patient's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the debilitating medical condition.  
116 A written certification shall be made only in the course of a bona fide physician-patient relationship where the qualifying  
117 patient is under the physician's care for her or his primary care or for her or his debilitating medical condition after the  
118 physician has completed an assessment of the qualifying patient's medical history and current medical condition. The bona  
119 fide physician-patient relationship may not be limited to authorization for the patient to use medical marijuana or  
120 consultation for that purpose. The written certification shall specify the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition.

121 §4903A. Protections for the Medical Use of Marijuana.

122 (a) A registered qualifying patient shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege,  
123 including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or occupational or professional licensing board or  
124 bureau, for the medical use of marijuana pursuant to this chapter, if the registered qualifying patient does not possess more  
125 than 6 ounces of usable marijuana.

126 (b) A registered designated caregiver shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege,  
127 including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or occupational or professional licensing board or  
128 bureau:

129 (1) for assisting a registered qualifying patient to whom he or she is connected through the Department's  
130 registration process with the medical use of marijuana if the designated caregiver does not possess more than 6  
131 ounces of usable marijuana for each qualifying patient to whom he or she is connected through the Department's  
132 registration process; and

133 (2) for receiving compensation for costs associated with assisting a registered qualifying patient's medical  
134 use of marijuana if the registered designated caregiver is connected to the registered qualifying patient through  
135 the Department's registration process.

136 (c) A visiting qualifying patient shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege,  
137 including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or occupational or professional licensing board or  
138 bureau, for the medical use of marijuana pursuant to this chapter if the visiting qualifying patient does not possess more  
139 than 6 ounces of usable marijuana.

140 (d) A registered qualifying patient, visiting qualifying patient, or registered designated caregiver shall not be  
141 subject to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary  
142 action by a court or occupational or professional licensing board or bureau:

143 (1) for possession of marijuana that is incidental to medical use, but is not usable marijuana as defined in  
144 this chapter; or

145 (2) for giving marijuana to a registered qualifying patient, a registered compassion center, or a registered  
146 designated caregiver for a registered qualifying patient's medical use where nothing of value is transferred in  
147 return, or for offering to do the same, if the person giving the marijuana does not knowingly cause the recipient to  
148 possess more marijuana than is permitted by this section.

149 (e) (1) There shall be a presumption that a qualifying patient is engaged in, or a designated caregiver is  
150 assisting with, the medical use of marijuana in accordance with this chapter if the qualifying patient or designated  
151 caregiver:

152 a. is in possession of a valid registry identification card; and

153 b. is in possession of an amount of marijuana that does not exceed the amount allowed under  
154 §4903A(a)-(c).

155 (2) The presumption may be rebutted by evidence that conduct related to marijuana was not for the  
156 purpose of treating or alleviating the qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated  
157 with the debilitating medical condition in compliance with this chapter.

158 (f) A physician shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner, or denied any right or  
159 privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by the Delaware Medical Board or by any other  
160 occupational or professional licensing board or bureau, solely for providing written certifications or for otherwise stating  
161 that, in the physician's professional opinion, a patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical  
162 use of marijuana to treat or alleviate the patient's serious or debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the  
163 serious or debilitating medical condition, provided that nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to release a physician from  
164 the duty to exercise a professional standard of care for evaluating a patient's medical condition.

165 (g) No person may be subject to arrest, prosecution, or denial of any right or privilege, including but not limited to  
166 civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or occupational or professional licensing board or bureau, for:

167 (1) selling marijuana paraphernalia to a cardholder upon presentation of an unexpired registry  
168 identification card in the recipient's name or to a compassion center agent or safety compliance facility agent upon  
169 presentation of an unexpired copy of the entity's registration certificate;

- 170 (2) being in the presence or vicinity of the medical use of marijuana as allowed under this chapter; or  
171 (3) assisting a registered qualifying patient with using or administering marijuana.

172 (h) A registered compassion center shall not be subject to prosecution; search or inspection, except by the  
173 Department pursuant to §4919A(u); seizure; or penalty in any manner, or be denied any right or privilege, including but not  
174 limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or business licensing board or entity, for:

175 (1) acting pursuant to this chapter and Department regulations to acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture,  
176 deliver, transfer, transport, supply, sell, or dispense marijuana or related supplies and educational materials to  
177 registered qualifying patients and visiting qualifying patients who have designated the compassion center to  
178 provide for them, to registered designated caregivers on behalf of the registered qualifying patients who have  
179 designated the registered compassion center, or to other registered compassion centers; or

180 (2) selling or transferring marijuana seeds to entities that are licensed or registered in another jurisdiction  
181 to dispense marijuana for medical purposes.

182 (3) transferring marijuana to and from a registered safety compliance facility for the purposes of  
183 analytical testing.

184 (i) A compassion center agent shall not be subject to prosecution, search, or penalty in any manner, or be denied  
185 any right or privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or disciplinary action by a court or business licensing board  
186 or entity, for working or volunteering for a registered compassion center pursuant to this chapter and Department  
187 regulations to perform the actions on behalf of a registered compassion center that are authorized by this chapter.

188 (j) A registered safety compliance facility and safety compliance facility agents acting on behalf of a registered  
189 safety compliance facility shall not be subject to prosecution; search, except by the Department pursuant to §4919A(u);  
190 seizure; or penalty in any manner, or be denied any right or privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or  
191 disciplinary action by a court or business licensing board or entity, solely for acting in accordance with this chapter and  
192 Department regulations to provide the following services:

- 193 (1) acquiring or possessing marijuana obtained from registered compassion centers;  
194 (2) returning the marijuana to the same registered compassion centers;  
195 (3) transporting marijuana that was produced by registered compassion centers to or from those registered  
196 compassion centers;  
197 (4) cultivating, manufacturing, and possessing marijuana for training and analytical testing;  
198 (5) the production or sale of educational materials related to medical marijuana;  
199 (6) the production, sale, or transportation of equipment or materials other than marijuana to registered

200 compassion centers, including lab equipment and packaging materials, that are used by registered  
201 compassion centers;

202 (7) testing of medical marijuana samples, including for potency and contamination;

203 (8) providing training to prospective compassion center agents and compassion center agents, provided  
204 that only compassion center agents and safety compliance facility agents may be allowed to possess or  
205 cultivate marijuana and any possession or cultivation of marijuana must occur on the location registered  
206 with the Department; and

207 (9) receiving compensation for actions allowed under this section.

208 (k) A visiting qualifying patient or an entity that is registered to dispense marijuana for medical use in other  
209 jurisdictions shall not be subject to prosecution; search or inspection, except by the Department pursuant to §4919A(u);  
210 seizure; or penalty in any manner or be denied any right or privilege, including but not limited to civil penalty or  
211 disciplinary action by a court or business licensing board or entity, for providing marijuana seeds to registered compassion  
212 centers.

213 (l) Any marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia, licit property, or interest in licit property that is possessed, owned, or  
214 used in connection with the medical use of marijuana as allowed under this chapter, or acts incidental to such use, shall not  
215 be seized or forfeited. This chapter shall not prevent the seizure or forfeiture of marijuana exceeding the amounts allowed  
216 under this chapter nor shall it prevent seizure or forfeiture if the basis for the action is unrelated to the marijuana that is  
217 possessed, manufactured, transferred, or used pursuant to this chapter.

218 (m) Mere possession of, or application for, a registry identification card or registration certificate shall not  
219 constitute probable cause or reasonable suspicion, nor shall it be used to support the search of the person, property, or home  
220 of the person possessing or applying for the registry identification card. The possession of, or application for, a registry  
221 identification card shall not preclude the existence of probable cause if probable cause exists on other grounds.

222 (n) For the purposes of Delaware state law, the medical use of marijuana by a cardholder or registered compassion  
223 center shall be considered lawful as long as it is in accordance with this chapter.

224 (o) Where a state-funded or locally funded law enforcement agency encounters an individual who, during the  
225 course of the investigation, credibly asserts that he or she is a registered cardholder, or encounters an entity whose  
226 personnel credibly assert that it is a registered compassion center, the law enforcement agency shall not provide any  
227 information from any marijuana-related investigation of the person to any law enforcement authority that does not  
228 recognize the protection of this chapter and any prosecution of the individual, individuals, or entity for a violation of this  
229 chapter shall be conducted pursuant to the laws of this state.



230 §4904A. Limitations.

231 (a) This chapter shall does not authorize any person to engage in, and does not prevent the imposition of any civil,  
232 criminal, or other penalties for engaging in, the following conduct:

233 (1) Undertaking any task under the influence of marijuana, when doing so would constitute negligence or  
234 professional malpractice;

235 (2) Possessing marijuana, or otherwise engaging in the medical use of marijuana:

236 (A) in a school bus;

237 (B) on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school; or

238 (C) in any correctional facility.

239 (3) Smoking marijuana:

240 (A) on any form of public transportation; or

241 (B) in any public place.

242 (4) Operating, navigating, or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft, or motorboat  
243 while under the influence of marijuana, except that a registered qualifying patient or visiting qualifying patient  
244 shall not be considered to be under the influence of marijuana solely because of the presence of metabolites or  
245 components of marijuana that appear in insufficient concentration to cause impairment.

246 (5) Using marijuana if that person does not have a serious or debilitating medical condition.

247 (6) Transferring marijuana to any person who is not allowed to possess marijuana under this act.

248 §4905A. Discrimination Prohibited.

249 (a) (1) No school or landlord may refuse to enroll or lease to, or otherwise penalize, a person solely for his or  
250 her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver, unless failing to do so would cause  
251 the school or landlord to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

252 (2) For the purposes of medical care, including organ transplants, a registered qualifying patient's  
253 authorized use of marijuana in accordance with this chapter shall be considered the equivalent of the authorized  
254 use of any other medication used at the direction of a physician, and shall not constitute the use of an illicit  
255 substance or otherwise disqualify a qualifying patient from needed medical care.

256 (3) Unless a failure to do so would cause the employer to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit  
257 under federal law or federal regulations, an employer may not discriminate against a person in hiring, termination,  
258 or any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalize a person, if the discrimination is based upon either  
259 of the following:

260 a. The person's status as a cardholder; or  
261 b. A registered qualifying patient's positive drug test for marijuana components or metabolites,  
262 unless the patient used, possessed, or was impaired by marijuana on the premises of the place of  
263 employment or during the hours of employment.

264 (b) A person otherwise entitled to custody of or visitation or parenting time with a minor shall not be denied such a  
265 right, and there shall be no presumption of neglect or child endangerment, for conduct allowed under this chapter, unless  
266 the person's actions in relation to marijuana were such that they created an unreasonable danger to the safety of the minor as  
267 established by clear and convincing evidence.

268 (c) No school, landlord, or employer may be penalized or denied any benefit under state law for enrolling, leasing  
269 to, or employing a cardholder.

270 §4906A. Addition of Debilitating Medical Conditions.

271 Any citizen may petition the Department to add conditions or treatments to the list of debilitating medical  
272 conditions listed in §4902A(c). The Department shall consider petitions in the manner required by Department regulation,  
273 including public notice and hearing. The Department shall approve or deny a petition within 180 days of its submission.  
274 The approval or denial of any petition is a final decision of the Department subject to judicial review. Jurisdiction and  
275 venue are vested in the Superior Court.

276 §4907A. Acts Not Required, Acts Not Prohibited.

277 (a) Nothing in this chapter requires:

278 (1) a government medical assistance program or private health insurer to reimburse a person for costs  
279 associated with the medical use of marijuana;

280 (2) any person or establishment in lawful possession of property to allow a guest, client, customer, or  
281 other visitor to smoke marijuana on or in that property; or

282 (3) an employer to allow the ingestion of marijuana in any workplace or to allow any employee to work  
283 while under the influence of marijuana, except that a registered qualifying patient shall not be considered to be  
284 under the influence of marijuana solely because of the presence of metabolites or components of marijuana that  
285 appear in insufficient concentration to cause impairment.

286 (b) Nothing in this chapter prohibits an employer from disciplining an employee for ingesting marijuana in the  
287 workplace or working while under the influence of marijuana.

288 (c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the arrest or prosecution of a registered qualifying patient for  
289 reckless driving or driving under the influence of marijuana where probable cause exists.

290 §4908A. Registration of Qualifying Patients and Designated Caregivers.

291 (a) The Department shall issue registry identification cards to qualifying patients who submit the following, in  
292 accordance with the Department's regulations:

293 (1) a written certification issued by a physician within 90 days immediately preceding the date of an  
294 application, except that in the case of a visiting qualifying patient, the visiting qualifying patient shall submit a  
295 copy of the visiting qualifying patient's registry identification card or its equivalent that was issued pursuant to the  
296 laws of the jurisdiction of the person's residence, proof of residency in the jurisdiction where the registry  
297 identification card or its equivalent was issued; and a certification by the visiting qualifying patient's physician that  
298 he or she has a debilitating qualifying condition;

299 (2) the application or renewal fee;

300 (3) the name, address, and date of birth of the qualifying patient, except that if the applicant is homeless  
301 no address is required;

302 (4) the name, address, and telephone number of the qualifying patient's physician; and

303 (5) the name, address, and date of birth of the designated caregiver, if any, chosen by the qualifying  
304 patient, except that a visiting qualifying patient shall not have a designated caregiver;

305 (6) the name of the registered compassion center the qualifying patient designates, if any;

306 (7) a statement signed by the qualifying patient, pledging not to divert marijuana to anyone who is not  
307 allowed to possess marijuana pursuant to this chapter; and

308 (8) a signed statement from the designated caregiver, if any, agreeing to be designated as the patient's  
309 designated caregiver and pledging not to divert marijuana to anyone who is not allowed to possess marijuana  
310 pursuant to this chapter.

311 (b) The application for qualifying patients' registry identification cards shall ask whether the patient would like the  
312 Department to notify him or her of any clinical studies needing human subjects for research on the medical use of  
313 marijuana. The Department shall notify interested patients if it is notified of studies that will be conducted in the United  
314 States.

315 §4909A. Issuance of Registry Identification Cards.

316 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Department shall:

317 (1) verify the information contained in an application or renewal submitted pursuant to this chapter, and  
318 shall approve or deny an application or renewal within forty-five (45) days of receiving a completed application or  
319 renewal application.

320 (2) issue registry identification cards to a qualifying patient and his or her designated caregiver, if any,  
321 within thirty (30) days of approving the application or renewal. A designated caregiver must have a registry  
322 identification card for each of his qualifying patients.

323 (3) enter the registry identification number of the registered compassion center the patient designates into  
324 the verification system.

325 (b) The Department shall not issue a registry identification card to a qualifying patient who is younger than 21  
326 years of age.

327 §4910A. Denial of Registry Identification Cards.

328 (a) The Department shall deny an application or renewal of a qualifying patient's registry identification card only if  
329 the applicant:

330 (1) did not provide the required information and materials;

331 (2) previously had a registry identification card revoked; or

332 (3) provided false or falsified information.

333 (b) The Department shall deny an application or renewal for a designated caregiver chosen by a qualifying patient  
334 whose registry identification card was granted only if:

335 (1) the designated caregiver does not meet the requirements of §4902A(e)

336 (2) the applicant did not provide the information required;

337 (3) the designated caregiver previously had a registry identification card revoked; or

338 (4) the applicant or the designated caregiver provides false or falsified information.

339 (c) The Department shall conduct a background check of the prospective designated caregiver in order to carry out  
340 this provision.

341 (d) The Department shall notify the qualifying patient who has designated someone to serve as his or her  
342 designated caregiver if a registry identification card will not be issued to the designated caregiver.

343 (e) Denial of an application or renewal is considered a final Department action, subject to judicial review.  
344 Jurisdiction and venue for judicial review are vested in the Superior Court.

345 §4911A. Registry Identification Cards.

346 (a) Registry identification cards shall contain all of the following:

347 (1) The name of the cardholder;

348 (2) A designation of whether the cardholder is a designated caregiver or qualifying patient;

349 (3) If the cardholder is a visiting qualifying patient, a designation as such, including the state of the

350 patient's residence;

351 (4) The date of issuance and expiration date of the registry identification card;

352 (5) A random 10-digit alphanumeric identification number, containing at least four numbers and at least  
353 four letters, that is unique to the cardholder;

354 (6) If the cardholder is a designated caregiver, the random 10-digit alphanumeric identification number of  
355 the qualifying patient the designated caregiver is receiving the registry identification card to assist;

356 (7) A photograph of the cardholder, if the Department's regulations require one; and

357 (8) The phone number or Web address for the verification system.

358 (b) (1) Except as provided in this subsection, the expiration date shall be one year after the date of issuance.

359 (2) If the physician stated in the written certification that the qualifying patient would benefit from  
360 marijuana until a specified earlier date, then the registry identification card shall expire on that date.

361 (3) If the patient is a visiting qualifying patient whose permission to use medical marijuana in the person's  
362 home jurisdiction would expire sooner than one year after the issuance date, then the registry identification card  
363 shall expire on the date their home jurisdiction documentation would expire.

364 (c) The Department may, at its discretion, electronically store in the card all of the information listed in subsection  
365 (a), along with the address and date of birth of the cardholder, to allow it to be read by law enforcement agents.  
366 §4912A. Notifications to Department and Responses; Civil Penalty.

367 (a) The following notifications and Department responses are required:

368 (1) A registered qualifying patient shall notify the Department of any change in his or her name or  
369 address, or if the registered qualifying patient ceases to have his or her debilitating medical condition, within 10  
370 days of the change.

371 (2) A registered designated caregiver shall notify the Department of any change in his or her name or  
372 address, or if the designated caregiver becomes aware the qualifying patient passed away, within 10 days of the  
373 change.

374 (3) Before a registered qualifying patient changes his or her designated caregiver, the qualifying patient  
375 must notify the Department.

376 (4) If a cardholder loses his or her registry identification card, he or she shall notify the Department within  
377 10 days of becoming aware the card has been lost.

378 (b) When a cardholder notifies the Department of items listed in subsection (a), but remains eligible under this  
379 chapter, the Department shall issue the cardholder a new registry identification card with a new random 10-digit

380 alphanumeric identification number within 10 days of receiving the updated information and a \$20 fee. If the person  
381 notifying the Department is a registered qualifying patient, the Department shall also issue his or her registered designated  
382 caregiver, if any, a new registry identification card within 10 days of receiving the updated information.

383 (c) If a registered qualifying patient ceases to be a registered qualifying patient or changes his or her registered  
384 designated caregiver, the Department shall promptly notify the designated caregiver. The registered designated caregiver's  
385 protections under this chapter as to that qualifying patient shall expire 15 days after notification by the Department.

386 (d) A cardholder who fails to make a notification to the Department that is required by this section is subject to a  
387 civil infraction, punishable by a penalty of no more than \$150.

388 (e) A registered qualifying patient shall notify the Department before changing his or her designated registered  
389 compassion center and pay a \$20 fee. The Department must, within thirty (30) business days of receiving the notification,  
390 update the registered qualifying patient's entry in the identification registry system to reflect the change in designation and  
391 notify the patient that the change has been processed.

392 (f) If the registered qualifying patient's certifying physician notifies the Department in writing that either the  
393 registered qualifying patient has ceased to suffer from a debilitating medical condition or that the physician no longer  
394 believes the patient would receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of marijuana, the card shall become  
395 null and void. However, the registered qualifying patient shall have 15 days to dispose of his or her marijuana or give it to a  
396 registered compassion center where nothing of value is transferred in return.

397 §4913A. Affirmative Defense and Dismissal for Medical Marijuana.

398 (a) Except as provided in §4904A and this section, an individual may assert a medical purpose for using marijuana  
399 as a defense to any prosecution of an offense involving marijuana intended for the patient's medical use, and this defense  
400 shall be presumed valid and the prosecution shall be dismissed where the evidence shows that:

401 (1) A physician states that, in the physician's professional opinion, after having completed a full  
402 assessment of the individual's medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a bona fide  
403 physician-patient relationship, the patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from marijuana to  
404 treat or alleviate the individual's serious or debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the  
405 individual's serious or debilitating medical condition; and

406 (2) The individual was in possession of no more than six ounces of usable marijuana; and

407 (3) The individual was engaged in the acquisition, possession, use, or transportation of marijuana,  
408 paraphernalia, or both, relating to the administration of marijuana to treat or alleviate the individual's serious or  
409 debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the individual's serious or debilitating medical

410 condition.

411 (b) The defense and motion to dismiss shall not prevail if the prosecution proves that

412 (1) the individual had a registry identification card revoked for misconduct; or

413 (2) the purposes for the possession of marijuana were not solely for palliative or therapeutic use by the  
414 individual with a serious or debilitating medical condition who raised the defense.

415 (c) An individual is not required to possess a registry identification card to raise the affirmative defense set forth in  
416 this section.

417 (d) If an individual demonstrates the individual's medical purpose for using marijuana pursuant to this section,  
418 except as provided in §4919A, the individual shall not be subject to the following for the individual's use of marijuana for  
419 medical purposes:

420 (1) disciplinary action by an occupational or professional licensing board or bureau; or

421 (2) forfeiture of any interest in or right to non-marijuana, licit property.

422 §4914A. Registration of Compassion Centers.

423 (a) Compassion centers may only operate if they have been issued a valid registration certificate from the  
424 Department. When applying for a compassion center registration certificate, the applicant shall submit the following in  
425 accordance with Department regulations:

426 (1) A non-refundable application fee in an amount determined by the Department's regulations.

427 (2) The proposed legal name of the compassion center.

428 (3) The proposed physical address of the compassion center and the proposed physical address of any  
429 additional locations, if any, where marijuana will be cultivated, harvested, packaged, labeled, or otherwise  
430 prepared for distribution by the compassion center.

431 (4) The name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and board member of the compassion  
432 center, provided that all such individuals shall be at least 21 years of age.

433 (5) Any instances in which a business or not-for-profit that any of the prospective board members  
434 managed or served on the board of was convicted, fined, censured, or had a registration or license suspended or  
435 revoked in any administrative or judicial proceeding.

436 (6) Proposed operating bylaws that include procedures for the oversight of the compassion center and  
437 procedures to ensure accurate record keeping and security measures that are in accordance with the regulations  
438 issued by the Department pursuant to this chapter. The by-laws shall include a description of the enclosed, locked  
439 facility where medical marijuana will be grown, cultivated, harvested, packaged, labeled, or otherwise prepared for

440 distribution by the compassion center.

441 (7) Any information required by the Department to evaluate the applicant pursuant to the competitive  
442 bidding process described in subsection (b).

443 (b) The Department shall evaluate applications for compassion center registration certificates using an impartial  
444 and numerically scored competitive bidding process developed by the Department in accordance with this chapter. The  
445 registration considerations shall consist of the following criteria:

446 (1) Documentation of not-for-profit status, consistent with §4919A(a).

447 (2) The suitability of the proposed location or locations, including but not limited to compliance with any  
448 local zoning laws and the geographic convenience to patients from throughout the state of Delaware to compassion  
449 centers if the applicant were approved.

450 (3) The principal officer and board members' character and relevant experience, including any training or  
451 professional licensing related to medicine, pharmaceuticals, natural treatments, botany, or marijuana cultivation  
452 and preparation and their experience running businesses or not-for-profits.

453 (4) The proposed compassion center's plan for operations and services, including its staffing and training  
454 plans, whether it has sufficient capital to operate, and its ability to provide an adequate supply of medical  
455 marijuana to the registered patients in the state.

456 (5) The sufficiency of the applicant's plans for record keeping.

457 (6) The sufficiency of the applicant's plans for safety, security, and the prevention of diversion, including  
458 proposed locations and security devices employed.

459 (7) The applicant's plan for making medical marijuana available on an affordable basis to registered  
460 qualifying patients enrolled in Medicaid or receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability  
461 Insurance.

462 (8) The applicant's plan for safe and accurate packaging and labeling of medical marijuana, including the  
463 applicant's plan for ensuring that all medical marijuana is free of contaminants.

464 (c) No later than one year after the effective date of this chapter, provided that at least one application has been  
465 submitted from each county, the Department shall issue compassion center registration certificate to the highest scoring  
466 applicant in each county. If there are only applicants from one or two counties, no later than one year after the effective date  
467 of this chapter, the Department shall issue compassion center registration certificate to the highest scoring applicant in each  
468 county with an applicant.

469 (d) By two years after the effective date of this chapter, the Department shall issue registration certifications to at



470 least three of the highest scoring applicants not already awarded a registration certificate, provided a sufficient number of  
471 qualified additional applicants have applied. If the Department determines, after reviewing the report issued pursuant to  
472 §4922A, that additional compassion centers are needed to meet the needs of registered qualifying patients throughout the  
473 state, the Department shall issue registration certificates to the corresponding number of applicants who score the highest.

474 (e) (1) At any time after two years after the effective date of this chapter that the number of outstanding and  
475 valid registered compassion center certificates is lower than the number of registration certificates the Department is  
476 required to issue pursuant to subsection (d), the Department shall accept applications for compassion centers and issue  
477 registration certificates to the corresponding number of additional applicants who score the highest while ensuring at least  
478 one compassion center is registered in each county.

479 (2) Notwithstanding subsections (c), (d), and (e)(1), an application for a compassion center registration  
480 certificate must be denied if any of the following conditions are met:

481 a. the applicant failed to submit the materials required by this section, including if the applicant's  
482 plans do not satisfy the security, oversight, or recordkeeping regulations issued by the  
483 Department;

484 b. the applicant would not be in compliance with local zoning regulations issued in accordance  
485 with §4917A;

486 c. the applicant does not meet the requirements of §4919A;

487 d. one or more of the prospective principal officers or board members has been convicted of an  
488 excluded felony offense; and

489 e. one or more of the prospective principal officers or board members has served as a principal  
490 officer or board member for a registered compassion center that has had its registration  
491 certificate revoked; and

492 f. one or more of the principal officers or board members is younger than 21 years of age.

493 (f) After a compassion center is approved, but before it begins operations, it shall submit a registration fee to the  
494 Department in the amount determined by the Department's regulations and, if a physical address had not been finalized  
495 when it applied, it shall submit a complete listing of all its physical addresses.

496 (g) When issuing a compassion center registration certificate, the Department shall also issue a renewable  
497 registration certificate with an identification number.

498 §4915A. Registration and Certification of Safety Compliance Facilities.

499 (a) Safety compliance facilities may only operate if they have been issued a valid registration certificate from the

500 Department. When applying for a safety compliance facility registration certificate, the applicant shall submit the following  
501 in accordance with Department regulations:

- 502 (1) a non-refundable application fee in an amount determined by the Department's regulations;
- 503 (2) the proposed legal name of the safety compliance facility;
- 504 (3) the proposed physical address of the safety compliance facility;
- 505 (4) the name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and board member of the safety  
506 compliance facility, provided that all such individuals shall be at least 21 years of age;
- 507 (5) any instances in which a business or not-for-profit that any of the prospective board members managed  
508 or served on the board of was convicted, fined, censured, or had a registration or license suspended or revoked in  
509 any administrative or judicial proceeding; and
- 510 (6) any information required by the Department to evaluate the applicant pursuant to the competitive  
511 bidding process described in subsection (b).

512 (b) The Department shall evaluate applications for safety compliance facility registration certificates using an  
513 impartial and numerically scored competitive bidding process developed by the Department in accordance with this  
514 chapter. The registration considerations shall consist of the following criteria:

- 515 (1) The proposed principal officers' and board members' relevant experience, including any training or  
516 professional licensing related to analytical testing, medicine, pharmaceuticals, natural treatments, botany, or  
517 marijuana cultivation, preparation, and testing and their experience running businesses or not-for-profits;
- 518 (2) The suitability of the proposed location, including compliance with any local zoning laws and the  
519 geographic convenience to compassion centers from throughout the state of Delaware to registered safety  
520 compliance facilities if the applicant were approved;
- 521 (3) The sufficiency of the applicant's plans for safety, security, and the prevention of diversion, including  
522 proposed locations and security devices employed; and
- 523 (4) The proposed safety compliance facility's plan for operations and services, including its staffing and  
524 training plans, and whether it has sufficient capital to operate.

525 (c) The Department shall issue at least one safety compliance facility registration certificate to the highest scoring  
526 applicant within one year of the effective date of this chapter.

527 (d) (1) The Department may issue additional safety compliance facility registration certificates to the highest  
528 scoring applicant or applicants. If the Department determines, after reviewing the report issued pursuant to §4922A, that  
529 additional safety compliance facilities are needed to meet the needs of cardholders and registered compassion centers

530 throughout the state, the Department shall issue registration certificates to the corresponding number of applicants who  
531 score the highest.

532 (2) Notwithstanding subsections (c) and (d)(1), an application for a safety compliance facility registration  
533 certificate must be denied if any of the following conditions are met:

534 a. the applicant failed to submit the materials required by this section, including if the plans do  
535 not satisfy the security, oversight, or recordkeeping regulations issued by the Department;

536 b. the applicant would not be in compliance with local zoning regulations issued in accordance  
537 with §4917A;

538 c. the applicant does not meet the requirements of §4919A;

539 d. one or more of the prospective principal officers or board members has been convicted of an  
540 excluded felony offense;

541 e. one or more of the prospective principal officers or board members has served as a principal  
542 officer or board member for a registered safety compliance facility or registered compassion  
543 center that has had its registration certificate revoked; and

544 f. One or more of the principal officers or board members is younger than 21 years of age.

545 (e) After a safety compliance facility is approved, but before it begins operations, it shall submit a registration fee  
546 paid to the Department in the amount determined by Department regulation and, if a physical address had not been finalized  
547 when it applied, its physical address.

548 (f) When issuing a safety compliance facility registration certificate, the Department shall also issue a renewable  
549 registration certificate with an identification number. The Department shall also provide the registered safety compliance  
550 facility with the contact information for the verification system.

551 §4916A. Compassion Center and Safety Compliance Facilities Renewal.

552 Registration certificates may be renewed every two years. The registered compassion center or registered safety  
553 compliance facility may submit a renewal application beginning 90 days prior to the expiration of its registration certificate.  
554 The Department shall grant a renewal application within 30 days of its submission if the following conditions are all  
555 satisfied:

556 (a) the registered compassion center or registered safety compliance facility submits a renewal application and the  
557 required renewal fee, which shall be refunded within 30 days if the renewal application is rejected;

558 (b) the Department has not suspended the registered compassion center or registered safety compliance facility's  
559 registration certificate for violations of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter; and

560 (c) the inspections authorized by §4919A(u) and the annual report, provided pursuant to §4922A, do not raise  
561 serious concerns about the continued operation of the registered compassion center or registered safety compliance facility  
562 applying for renewal.

563 §4917A. Local Ordinances.

564 Nothing shall prohibit local governments from enacting ordinances or regulations not in conflict with this chapter or  
565 with Department regulations regulating the time, place, and manner of registered compassion center operations and  
566 registered safety compliance facilities, provided that no local government may prohibit registered compassion center operation  
567 altogether, either expressly or through the enactment of ordinances or regulations which make registered compassion  
568 center and registered safety compliance facility operation unreasonably impracticable in the jurisdiction.

569 §4918A. Compassion Center and Safety Compliance Facility Agents.

570 (a) (1) Registered compassion centers and registered safety compliance facilities shall conduct a background  
571 check into the criminal history of every person seeking to become a principal officer, board member, agent, volunteer, or  
572 employee before the person begins working at the registered compassion centers or registered safety compliance facility.

573 (2) A registered compassion center may not employ any person who:

574 a. was convicted of an excluded felony offense; or

575 b. is under 21 years of age.

576 (b) A registered compassion center or safety compliance facility agent must have documentation when  
577 transporting marijuana on behalf of the registered safety compliance facility or registered compassion center that specifies  
578 the amount of marijuana being transported, the date the marijuana is being transported, the registry ID certificate number of  
579 the registered compassion center or registered safety compliance facility, and a contact number to verify that the marijuana  
580 is being transported on behalf of the registered compassion center or registered safety compliance facility.

581 §4919A. Requirements, Prohibitions, Penalties.

582 (a) A registered compassion center shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis. The by-laws of a registered  
583 compassion center shall contain such provisions relative to the disposition of revenues to establish and maintain its not-for-  
584 profit character. A registered compassion center need not be recognized as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service and  
585 is not required to incorporate pursuant to Title 8 of the Delaware Code.

586 (b) The operating documents of a registered compassion center shall include procedures for the oversight of the  
587 registered compassion center and procedures to ensure accurate recordkeeping.

588 (c) A registered compassion center and a registered safety compliance facility shall implement appropriate security  
589 measures to deter and prevent the theft of marijuana and unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana.

590 (d) A registered compassion center and a registered safety compliance facility may not be located within 500 feet  
591 of the property line of a preexisting public or private school.

592 (e) A registered compassion center is prohibited from acquiring, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, delivering,  
593 transferring, transporting, supplying, or dispensing marijuana for any purpose except to assist registered qualifying patients  
594 with the medical use of marijuana directly or through the qualifying patients' designated caregivers.

595 (f) All cultivation of marijuana for registered compassion centers must take place in an enclosed, locked location at  
596 the physical address or addresses provided to the Department during the registration process, which can only be accessed by  
597 compassion center agents working or volunteering for the registered compassion center.

598 (g) A registered compassion center may not purchase usable marijuana or mature marijuana plants from any person  
599 other than another registered compassion center.

600 (h) Before marijuana may be dispensed to a designated caregiver or a registered qualifying patient, a compassion  
601 center agent must determine that the individual is a current cardholder in the verification system and must verify each of the  
602 following:

603 (1) that the registry identification card presented to the registered compassion center is valid;

604 (2) that the person presenting the card is the person identified on the registry identification card presented  
605 to the compassion center agent; and

606 (3) that the registered compassion center is the designated compassion center for the registered qualifying  
607 patient who is obtaining the marijuana directly or via his or her designated caregiver.

608 (i) A registered compassion center shall not dispense more than 3 ounces of marijuana to a registered qualifying  
609 patient, directly or via a designated caregiver, in any fourteen-day period. Registered compassion centers shall ensure  
610 compliance with this limitation by maintaining internal, confidential records that include records specifying how much  
611 marijuana is being dispensed to the registered qualifying patient and whether it was dispensed directly to the registered  
612 qualifying patient or to the designated caregiver. Each entry must include the date and time the marijuana was dispensed.

613 (j) A registered compassion center or compassion center agent shall only dispense marijuana to a visiting  
614 qualifying patient if he or she possesses a valid Delaware registry identification card and if the procedures in sections (h)  
615 and (i) are followed.

616 (k) No person may advertise medical marijuana sales in print, broadcast, or by paid in-person solicitation of  
617 customers. This shall not prevent appropriate signs on the property of the registered compassion center, listings in business  
618 directories including phone books, listings in trade or medical publications, or the sponsorship of health or not-for-profit  
619 charity or advocacy events.

620 (l) A registered compassion center shall not share office space with nor refer patients to a physician.

621 (m) A physician shall not refer patients to a registered compassion center or registered designated caregiver,  
622 advertise in a registered compassion center, or, if the physician issues written certifications, hold any financial interest in a  
623 registered compassion center.

624 (n) No person who has been convicted of an excluded felony offense may be a compassion center agent.

625 (o) The Department shall issue a civil fine of up to \$3,000 for violations of this section.

626 (p) The Department shall suspend or revoke a registration certificate for serious or multiple violations of this  
627 chapter and regulations issued in accordance with this chapter. A registered compassion center may continue to cultivate  
628 and possess marijuana plants during a suspension, but it may not dispense, transfer, or sell marijuana.

629 (q) The suspension or revocation of a certificate is a final Department action, subject to judicial review.  
630 Jurisdiction and venue for judicial review are vested in the Superior Court.

631 (r) Any cardholder who sells marijuana to a person who is not allowed to possess marijuana for medical purposes  
632 under this chapter shall have his or her registry identification card revoked and shall be subject to other penalties for the  
633 unauthorized sale of marijuana.

634 (s) Any registered qualifying patient, registered designated caregiver, compassion center agent, or safety  
635 compliance facility agent who sells marijuana to someone who is not allowed to use marijuana for medical purposes under  
636 this is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or  
637 both, in addition to any other penalties for the distribution of marijuana.

638 (t) The Department shall revoke the registry identification card of any cardholder who knowingly commits  
639 multiple or serious violations of this chapter.

640 (u) Registered compassion centers are subject to random and reasonable inspection by the Department. The  
641 Department shall give reasonable notice of an inspection under this paragraph.

642 (v) Fraudulent representation to a law enforcement official of any fact or circumstance relating to the medical use  
643 of marijuana to avoid arrest or prosecution shall be a class B misdemeanor which may be punishable by up to 6 months  
644 incarceration at Level V under §4204 of the Delaware Code and a fine of up to \$1,150, as the court deems appropriate  
645 which shall be in addition to any other penalties that may apply for making a false statement or for the use of marijuana  
646 other than use undertaken pursuant to this act and jurisdiction for prosecution shall be exclusively in Superior Court.

647 §4920A. Confidentiality.

648 (a) The following information received and records kept by the Department for purposes of administering this  
649 chapter are confidential and exempt from the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, and not subject to disclosure to any

650 individual or public or private entity, except as necessary for authorized employees of the Department to perform official  
651 duties pursuant to this chapter:

652 (1) Applications and renewals, their contents, and supporting information submitted by qualifying patients  
653 and designated caregivers, including information regarding their designated caregivers and physicians.

654 (2) Applications and renewals, their contents, and supporting information submitted by or on behalf of  
655 compassion centers and safety compliance facilities in compliance with this chapter, including their physical  
656 addressees.

657 (3) The individual names and other information identifying persons to whom the Department has issued  
658 registry identification cards.

659 (4) Any dispensing information required to be kept under §4919A or Department regulation shall identify  
660 cardholders and registered compassion centers by their registry identification numbers and not contain names or  
661 other personally identifying information.

662 (5) Any Department hard drives or other data-recording media that are no longer in use and that contain  
663 cardholder information must be destroyed. The Department shall retain a signed statement from a Department  
664 employee confirming the destruction.

665 (6) Data subject to this section shall not be combined or linked in any manner with any other list or  
666 database and it shall not be used for any purpose not provided for in this chapter.

667 (b) Nothing in this section precludes the following:

668 (1) Department employees shall notify law enforcement about falsified or fraudulent information  
669 submitted to the Department if the employee who suspects that falsified or fraudulent information has been  
670 submitted conferred with his or her supervisor and both agree that circumstances exist that warrant reporting.

671 (2) The Department shall notify state or local law enforcement about apparent criminal violations of this  
672 chapter if the employee who suspects the offense has conferred with his or her supervisor and both agree that  
673 circumstances exist that warrant reporting.

674 (3) Compassion center agents shall notify the Department of a suspected violation or attempted violation  
675 of this chapter or the regulations issued pursuant to it.

676 (4) The Department shall verify registry identification cards pursuant to 4921A.

677 (5) The submission of the §4922A report to the legislature.

678 (c) It shall be a misdemeanor punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for any person, including an  
679 employee or official of the Department or another state agency or local government, to breach the confidentiality of

680 information obtained pursuant to this chapter and jurisdiction for prosecution shall be exclusively in Superior Court.

681 §4921A. Registry Identification and Registration Certificate Verification.

682 (a) The Department shall maintain a confidential list of the persons to whom the Department has issued registry  
683 identification cards and their addresses, phone numbers, and registry identification numbers. This confidential list shall not  
684 be combined or linked in any manner with any other list or database, nor shall it be used for any purpose not provided for in  
685 this chapter.

686 (b) Within 120 days of the effective date of this chapter, the Department shall establish a verification system. The  
687 verification system must allow law enforcement personnel, compassion center agents, and safety compliance facility agents  
688 to enter a registry identification number to determine whether or not the number corresponds with a current, valid registry  
689 identification card. The system shall only disclose whether the identification card is valid; whether the cardholder is a  
690 registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver; the registry identification number of the registered  
691 compassion center designated to serve the registered qualifying patient; and, if the cardholder is a registered designated  
692 caregiver, the registry identification number of the registered qualified patient who is assisted by the cardholder.

693 (c) The Department shall, with a cardholder's permission, confirm his or her status as a registered qualifying  
694 patient or registered designated caregiver to a landlord, employer, school, medical professional, or court.

695 (d) The Department shall disclose the names of any person whose registry identification card was revoked to any  
696 court where the person is seeking to assert the protections of 4913A.

697 §4922A. Annual Reports.

698 (a) (1) The legislature shall appoint a nine-member oversight committee comprised of: one member of the  
699 House of Representatives; one representative of the Department; one member of the Senate; one physician with  
700 experience in medical marijuana issues; one nurse; one board member or principal officer of a registered safety  
701 compliance facility; one individual with experience in policy development or implementation in the field of  
702 medical marijuana; and three registered patients.

703 (2) The oversight committee shall meet at least two times per year for the purpose of evaluating and  
704 making recommendations to the legislature and the Department regarding:

705 a. The ability of qualifying patients in all areas of the state to obtain timely access to high-quality  
706 medical marijuana.

707 b. The effectiveness of the registered compassion centers, individually and together, in serving  
708 the needs of qualifying patients, including the provision of educational and support services, the  
709 reasonableness of their fees, whether they are generating any complaints or security problems,



710 and the sufficiency of the number operating to serve the registered qualifying patients of  
711 Delaware.

712 c. The effectiveness of the registered safety compliance facility or facilities, including whether a  
713 sufficient number are operating.

714 d. The sufficiency of the regulatory and security safeguards contained in this chapter and adopted  
715 by the Department to ensure that access to and use of marijuana cultivated is provided only to  
716 cardholders authorized for such purposes.

717 e. Any recommended additions or revisions to the Department regulations or this chapter,  
718 including relating to security, safe handling, labeling, and nomenclature.

719 f. Any research studies regarding health effects of medical marijuana for patients.

720 (b) The Department shall submit to the legislature an annual report that does not disclose any identifying  
721 information about cardholders, registered compassion centers, or physicians, but does contain, at a minimum, all of the  
722 following information:

- 723 (1) the number of applications and renewals filed for registry identification cards;
- 724 (2) the number of qualifying patients and designated caregivers approved in each county;
- 725 (3) the nature of the debilitating medical conditions of the qualifying patients;
- 726 (4) the number of registry identification cards revoked for misconduct;
- 727 (5) the number of physicians providing written certifications for qualifying patients,
- 728 (6) the number of registered compassion centers, and
- 729 (7) specific accounting of fees and costs.

730 §4923A. Department to Issue Regulations.

731 Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this chapter, the Department shall promulgate regulations:

732 (a) governing the manner in which the Department shall consider petitions from the public to add debilitating  
733 medical conditions or treatments to the list of debilitating medical conditions set forth in §4902A(c) of this chapter,  
734 including public notice of and an opportunity to comment in public hearings on the petitions;

735 (b) establishing the form and content of registration and renewal applications submitted under this chapter;

736 (c) governing the manner in which it shall consider applications for and renewals of registry identification cards;

737 and

738 (d) governing the following matters related to registered compassion centers, with the goal of protecting against  
739 diversion and theft, without imposing an undue burden on the registered compassion centers or compromising the

740 confidentiality of cardholders:

- 741 (1) minimum oversight requirements for registered compassion centers;
- 742 (2) minimum recordkeeping requirements for registered compassion centers;
- 743 (3) minimum security requirements for registered compassion centers, which shall include that each  
744 registered compassion center location must be protected by a fully operational security alarm system;
- 745 (4) the competitive scoring process addressed in §4914A and §4915A; and
- 746 (5) procedures for suspending or terminating the registration certificates or registry identification cards of  
747 cardholders, registered compassion centers, and registered safety compliance facilities that commit multiple or  
748 serious violations of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations promulgated pursuant to this section.

749 (e) requiring application and renewal fees for registry identification cards, and registered compassion center  
750 registration certificates, according to the following:

- 751 (1) the total fees collected must generate revenues sufficient to offset all expenses of implementing and  
752 administering this chapter, except that fee revenue may be offset or supplemented by private donations;
- 753 (2) the total amount of revenue from application, renewal, and registration fees for compassion centers  
754 and security compliance facilities shall be sufficient to implement and administer the compassion center and safety  
755 compliance facility provisions of this chapter;
- 756 (3) the Department may establish a sliding scale of patient application and renewal fees based upon a  
757 qualifying patient's household income; and
- 758 (4) the Department may accept donations from private sources to reduce application and renewal fees.

759 §4924A. Enforcement of this Chapter.

760 (a) If the Department fails to adopt regulations to implement this chapter within the times provided for in this  
761 chapter, any citizen may commence an action in Superior Court to compel the Department to perform the actions mandated  
762 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

763 (b) If the Department fails to issue a valid registry identification card in response to a valid application or renewal  
764 submitted pursuant to this chapter within 20 days of its submission, the registry identification card shall be deemed granted,  
765 and a copy of the registry identification application or renewal shall be deemed a valid registry identification card.

766 (c) If at any time after the 140 days following the effective date of this chapter the Department has not established  
767 a process for accepting and approving or denying applications, a notarized statement by a qualifying patient containing the  
768 information required in an application pursuant to §4908A(a)(2-8) together with a written certification issued by a  
769 physician within 90 days immediately preceding the notarized statement, shall be deemed a valid registry identification card

770 for all purposes under this chapter.

771 §4925A. Severability.

772 Any section of this chapter being held invalid as to any person or circumstance shall not affect the application of  
773 any other section of this chapter that can be given full effect without the invalid section or application.

774 §4926A. Date of Effect.

775 This chapter shall take effect upon its enactment into law.

#### SYNOPSIS

This legislation is based on the Marijuana Policy Project's model medical marijuana legislation. The Bill creates an exception to a state's criminal laws to permit the doctor-recommended medical use of marijuana by patients with serious medical conditions. A patient would only be protected from arrest of controlled substance laws if his or her physician certifies, in writing, that the patient has a specified debilitating medical condition and that the patient would receive therapeutic benefit from medical marijuana. The patient would send a copy of the written certification to the state Department of Health and Social Services and the Department would issue an ID card after verifying the information. Police officers could verify an ID card's validity with the Department. As long as the patient is in compliance with the law, there would be no arrest.

Patients would be allowed to possess up to 6 ounces for their medical use. Six ounces is less than the federal government has determined is a one-month supply for patients in the Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program. The legislation allows them to designate a caregiver who would also receive an ID card. Each caregiver may assist no more than five qualifying patients.

The legislation would allow for the state-regulated, non-profit distribution of medical marijuana. The Department of Health and Social Services would issue registration certificates to qualified applicants, who would have to abide by the rules on security, recordkeeping, and oversight provided for by the model medical marijuana legislation, in addition to any additional rules that the Department may develop. All dispensaries would be subject to random inspection and all of their staff would have to register with the Department of health. It is important that the law provide for both caregivers and dispensaries, since patients in rural areas are unlikely to have access to dispensaries, and because many low-income patients will not be able to afford medical marijuana at dispensaries. In addition, very ill patients would need a caregiver to pick up their medicine for them.

The Bill maintains commonsense restrictions on the medical use of marijuana, including prohibitions on public use of marijuana and driving under the influence of marijuana. Employers are not required to allow patients to be impaired at work or to allow the possession of marijuana at a workplace. Insurance providers would not have to cover medical marijuana.

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