

HOUSE BILL 302

MARYLAND MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT

FACT SHEET

Introduced by Del. Cheryl D. Glenn, January 24, 2013

Co-sponsors: Dels. Anderson, Carter, Oaks, and B. Robinson

Purpose

The Maryland Medical Marijuana Act authorizes the creation of a comprehensive program to grant patients with certain medical conditions the right to access and use medical marijuana without fear of arrest. Currently, Maryland medical marijuana patients are only narrowly protected by the law after they are arrested, and provides for no legal means of acquiring medicine.

Summary

HB 302 would allow patients under the care of a physician who have been diagnosed with a qualifying condition the right to access medical marijuana legally from a dispensary or through personal cultivation. The bill would also provide Maryland patients strong civil and privacy protections.

What it does

- Requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish regulations for a medical marijuana program and distribution system in Maryland
- Grants medical professionals who are presently licensed to prescribe medication under the Health Occupation Article the right to recommend medical marijuana to their patients for certain medical conditions
- Grants qualifying patients or their registered caregivers who have a valid registration card the right to possess up to six (6) ounces of medical marijuana
- Allows qualifying patients or their registered caregivers the right to acquire medical marijuana either through purchase from a "Compassion Center" (dispensary) or via personal cultivation
- Allows Compassion Centers to cultivate medical marijuana for sale
- Establishes a "Medical Marijuana Advisory Board" comprised of six physicians and a pharmacist to advise DHMH on how best to meet the needs of patients from a practitioner's perspective
- Creates a confidential registration identification card system, which allows law enforcement to check a patient or caregiver's legal status without running afoul of privacy concerns
- Protects patients from discrimination against employment, housing, education, child custody, or organ transplant merely for being a medical marijuana patient

What it does NOT do

- Does not require an accommodation to allow patients to smoke medical marijuana anywhere in public or in a dwelling where smoking is other prohibited
- Does not allow patients to be under the influence of medical marijuana when operating a motor vehicle



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