

A RESOLUTION

21-689

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 6, 2016

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 to increase the number of medical marijuana dispensaries that may be registered to operate in the District from 5 to 6, and to require the Mayor to open an application period for the registration of a medical marijuana dispensary in Ward 7 or Ward 8.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Medical Marijuana Dispensary Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2016”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 effective July 27, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-210; D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.01 *et seq.*), established a medical marijuana program in the District. Pursuant to this act, the Mayor can register a maximum of 8 dispensaries to ensure that qualifying patients have adequate access to medical marijuana.

(b) Although approximately 25% of all medical marijuana qualifying patients reside in Wards 7 and 8, there are no medical marijuana dispensaries east of the Anacostia River.

(c) A medical marijuana program that requires qualifying patients to travel across the city does not encourage the utilization of that program. Additionally, research has shown that travel often serves as a barrier to the use of healthcare services.

(d) Requiring the Mayor to open an application period will help the District ensure that all of its residents are able to utilize the medical marijuana program as intended.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Medical Marijuana Dispensary Emergency Amendment Act of 2016 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.