
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 982 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MADDEN, SANCHEZ AND DELLOSO, MAY 5, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MAY 5, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 17, 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), entitled "An
2 act establishing a medical marijuana program; providing for
3 patient and caregiver certification and for medical marijuana
4 organization registration; imposing duties on' the Department
5 of Health; providing for a tax on medical marijuana
6 organization gross receipts; establishing the Medical
7 Marijuana Program Fund; establishing the Medical Marijuana
8 Advisory Board; establishing a medical marijuana research
9 program; imposing duties on the Department of Corrections,
10 the Department of Education and the Department of Human
11 Services; and providing for academic clinical research
12 centers and for penalties and enforcement," in preliminary
13 provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in
14 program, further providing for program established.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The definition of "practitioner" in section 103
18 of the act of April 17, 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), known as the
19 Medical Marijuana Act, is amended and the section is amended by
20 adding definitions to read:

21 Section 103. Definitions.

22 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
23 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
24 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Academic clinical research center." As defined in section
2 2001.

3 * * *

4 "Chiropractor." A chiropractor acting within the scope of
5 practice contained in the act of December 16, 1986 (P.L.1646,
6 No.188), known as the Chiropractic Practice Act.

7 "Clinical registrant." As defined in section 2001.

8 * * *

9 "Doctor of osteopathy" or "osteopathic doctor." An
10 individual licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery
11 by the State Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

12 * * *

13 "Pharmacist." As defined in section 2(10) of the act of
14 September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy
15 Act.

16 "Physician." A medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy who is
17 registered with the department under section 401.

18 * * *

19 "Podiatrist." An individual licensed under the act of March
20 2, 1956 (1955 P.L.1206, No.375), known as the Podiatry Practice
21 Act, to practice podiatry.

22 "Practitioner." A physician, physician assistant,
23 pharmacist, certified registered nurse practitioner, podiatrist,
24 chiropractor, doctor of osteopathy or osteopathic doctor
25 involved in the certified medical use of cannabis as part of the
26 treatment of a patient's serious medical condition. This
27 includes a physician who is registered with the department under
28 section 401.

29 * * *

30 Section 2. Section 301(a) (6) of the act is amended and

1 subsection (a) is amended by adding paragraphs to read:

2 Section 301. Program established.

3 (a) Establishment.--A medical marijuana program for patients
4 suffering from serious medical conditions is established. The
5 program shall be implemented and administered by the department.

6 The department shall:

7 * * *

8 (6) Develop a four-hour annual training course for
9 physicians, pharmacists, podiatrists, certified registered
10 nurse practitioners [and], chiropractors, physician
11 assistants and doctors of osteopathy regarding the latest
12 scientific research on medical marijuana, including the risks
13 and benefits of medical marijuana, and other information
14 deemed necessary by the department. Successful completion of
15 the course shall be approved as continuing education credits
16 as determined by:

17 (i) The State Board of Medicine and the State Board
18 of Osteopathic Medicine.

19 (ii) The State Board of Pharmacy.

20 (iii) The State Board of Nursing.

21 (iv) The State Board of Chiropractic.

22 (v) The State Board of Podiatry.

23 (vi) The State Board of Pharmacy.

24 (6.1) A board shall require that a medical cannabis
25 practitioner complete at least four hours of continuing
26 education in the treatment and symptom management of serious
27 medical conditions using medical cannabis as a portion of the
28 total continuing education required for license renewal. The
29 following apply:

30 (i) Not later than 18 months after the effective

1 date of this subparagraph, a board shall adopt,
2 promulgate and enforce rules and regulations consistent
3 with the provisions of this act establishing requirements
4 of continuing education to be met by medical cannabis
5 practitioners as a condition of annual license renewal.
6 The regulations shall include any fees necessary for a
7 board to carry out its responsibilities under this
8 section.

9 (ii) Beginning with the first annual license renewal
10 period following promulgation of regulations, medical
11 cannabis practitioners shall be required to attend and
12 complete four hours of mandatory continuing education
13 during each annual license period. At least one credit
14 hour shall be in ethics, one credit hour shall be in
15 patient safety, and one credit hour shall provide the
16 latest advances in the medical cannabis field. Once the
17 continuing education requirement has been completed, the
18 medical cannabis practitioner shall attest that they have
19 a basic understanding of the endocannabinoid system.

20 (iii) An individual applying for the first time for
21 licensure in this Commonwealth shall be exempted from the
22 continuing education requirement for the renewal period
23 in which licensure is obtained.

24 (iv) A board shall, by regulation, provide for the
25 waiver of continuing education requirements in case of
26 illness, hardship and armed services duties. A request
27 for a waiver shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

28 (v) A medical cannabis practitioner seeking to
29 reinstate an inactive or lapsed license shall show proof
30 of compliance with the continuing education requirement

1 for the preceding year.

2 (vi) All courses, locations, instructors and
3 providers shall be devised by the department, academic
4 clinical research centers and clinical registrants and be
5 approved by a board. No credit shall be given for any
6 course in office management or practice building.

7 (vii) The department shall subsidize any costs
8 associated with completing continuing education
9 requirements for practitioners who serve unserved,
10 underserved or otherwise marginalized communities within
11 this Commonwealth.

12 * * *

13 (15) Ensure that there is a sufficient number of
14 practitioners who will serve patients in unserved,
15 underserved or otherwise marginalized communities within this
16 Commonwealth.

17 * * *

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.