
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. In 2015, a medical marijuana dispensary system
2 was established in Hawaii. The legislature finds that medical
3 marijuana has a place in the treatment of illness and qualifying
4 patients need ready access to medical marijuana; however, such a
5 dispensary system also carries the potential for risks that
6 cannot be ignored. For instance, there exists a large amount of
7 data concerning the adverse effects of marijuana use, including
8 on crime, traffic accidents, unemployment, and mental health.

9 The legislature notes that there have been reports from
10 across the nation regarding individuals who have harmed
11 themselves or others because of the improper or excessive use of
12 marijuana. For example, in Kentucky, a lawyer was struck and
13 killed by the driver of a pickup truck who had consumed alcohol
14 and smoked marijuana not long before the incident. In Colorado,
15 a high-school student died as a result of twenty self-inflicted
16 stab wounds after smoking a large amount of marijuana. A
17 Wyoming college student visiting Denver jumped to his death from



1 a hotel balcony after eating six times the recommended amount of
2 a marijuana-infused cookie. A woman in Denver was shot and
3 killed by her husband in front of their three children after her
4 husband had consumed marijuana edibles and began behaving
5 erratically. A seventeen-year-old high-school student in
6 Boulder, Colorado, committed suicide after consuming a large
7 amount of marijuana at a party and then suffering a major
8 psychotic breakdown. A college student who accompanied his
9 family on a skiing vacation to a Colorado resort purchased
10 marijuana edibles in the form of candy and consumed five times
11 the recommended amount. Becoming agitated and incoherent, he
12 later shot himself and died. The potential consequences of the
13 improper use of marijuana can be tragic.

14 Legal marijuana use must be restricted only to the
15 treatment of illness, and the department of health needs to
16 ensure that the distribution of marijuana for Hawaii's medical
17 marijuana dispensary system occurs solely for medicinal
18 purposes. Accordingly, the medical marijuana dispensary system,
19 which took effect on July 1, 2015, warrants a cautious approach
20 and further review. The purpose of this Act is to require the
21 department of health to conduct such reviews.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 329D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§329D- Annual review. (a) Beginning on July 1, 2018,
5 and each year thereafter, the department of health shall conduct
6 a review of the medical marijuana dispensary system. This
7 review shall:

- 8 (1) Include an examination of:
 - 9 (A) The efficiency and operations of the medical
 - 10 marijuana dispensary system;
 - 11 (B) Safeguards against improper distribution of
 - 12 medical marijuana;
 - 13 (C) Any difficulties and unforeseen issues faced by
 - 14 the dispensary system; and
 - 15 (D) Any other matters deemed necessary by the
 - 16 department of health; and
- 17 (2) Be conducted in addition to:
 - 18 (A) The inspections, audits, and reports required by
 - 19 section 329D-23; and



1 (B) The report and informational briefing required by
2 section 13 of Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii
3 2015.

4 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 each regular session, the department of health shall submit a
6 report to the legislature concerning the review conducted under
7 subsection (a).

8 (c) If the department of health finds through its review
9 that there are problems with the medical marijuana dispensary
10 system, the department shall implement corrective actions.

11 (d) If any legislation is necessary to implement
12 corrective actions, the department of health shall submit any
13 proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the
14 convening of each regular session."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 1992

Report Title:

Medical Marijuana Dispensary System; Annual Review by Department of Health

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to conduct annual reviews of the medical marijuana dispensary system.

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