

Senator Brandes Medical Marijuana Draft Short Summary

This draft allows a patient with either a specified medical condition or a specified severe and chronic symptom stemming from a physical medical condition or treatment for a medical condition to use medical-grade marijuana as ordered by his or her physician.

A Florida licensed physician who has completed the required training course may certify to the Department of Health that the patient has a qualifying condition or symptom. Two physicians must certify a minor's qualifying condition or symptom.

- The patient qualifies for use of medical marijuana if they have been certified by the physician to have a specified medical condition, however if the patient only has a specified severe or chronic symptom the physician must certify that the patient has exhausted available and reasonable medical treatment before qualifying for medical marijuana.
- The physician must additionally upload an order for medical-grade marijuana to the medical marijuana patient and caregiver registry which includes:
 - The amount of medical-grade marijuana the physician recommends as a 30-day supply for that patient; and
 - Any specific concentrations of individual cannabinoids that must be present to treat the patient's condition or symptom.
- Once certified, the patient may apply for a medical marijuana registry ID card and will be added to the medical marijuana patient and caregiver registry.
- The patient may also designate a caregiver who meets the requirements in the act, including background screening for caregivers who are not immediate family members. The caregiver will also receive an ID card and be added to the registry.
- The patient or caregiver may purchase medical-grade marijuana that has been tested, packaged, and labeled and that meets the specifications on the physician's order from a licensed retail facility.

Each county's board of county commissioners must decide if they will allow retail facilities, as well as determine their number and location, before the department may license any retail facilities in that county.

- Each retail facility is a separate license and a single entity may hold more than one retail license. Retail facilities must pay a \$10,000 license fee and hold a \$1,000,000 bond.
- Retail facilities purchase medical-grade marijuana from cultivation and processing facilities that are licensed separately by the department and must pay a \$100,000 license fee and hold a \$5,000,000 bond.
- Cultivation and processing licensees are responsible for the having each batch of medical-grade marijuana tested by an independent laboratory to ensure that it meets the criteria the department sets for health and safety standards and to determine the specific types and concentrations of individual cannabinoids present in that batch.
- Each batch of medical grade marijuana must be tested, labeled, and packaged according to the requirements in the act before selling it to retail facilities.
- A cultivation and processing licensee may also be issued one or more retail licenses, however, retail operations may not be conducted at the same location as cultivation and processing operations.
- All licensed facilities are inspected at licensure and at least once every two years at license renewal by the department
 - The department may conduct joint inspections with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.