8	**AGENDA ITEM** **ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
	Deadline for Submission - Wednesday 9 a.m. – Thirteen Days Prior to BCC Meeting

2/20/2018

BCC MEETING DATE

TO: **Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator** **DATE:** **June 1, 2017**

FROM: **Paolo S. Soria, Senior Assistant County Attorney** **PHONE:** **904 209-0809**

SUBJECT OR TITLE: **Update on Medical Marijuana**

AGENDA TYPE: **Business Item**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This is a brief presentation and update on Medical Marijuana, as well as seeking direction from the Board of County Commissioners on four (4) possible options. St. Johns County currently has a moratorium in place on Dispensaries until March 31, 2018. This Moratorium does not affect the ability of a licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Center to locate and establish a cultivation facility (cannabis farm), to process Medical Marijuana for consumption in St. Johns County, or to provide at-home delivery to qualified patients residing in St. Johns County. Although there is current state litigation and pending bills, upon review none of the proposed changes or the proposed litigation regarding whether smoking constitutes a Medical Use will impact the current limitations and pre-emptions allowed to the County regarding zoning, permitting, and development standards. Due to the way Section 381.986 is worded, Local Governments have a choice of either banning Dispensing Facilities from the area of jurisdiction or allow them in the same manner as Pharmacies. None of the currently filed bills as of the date of this Agenda item affect the current pre-emption or ability to regulate Dispensaries as provided in June of 2017.

1. IS FUNDING REQUIRED? No **2. IF YES, INDICATE IF BUDGETED.** No

IF FUNDING IS REQUIRED, MANDATORY OMB REVIEW IS REQUIRED:

INDICATE FUNDING SOURCE:

SUGGESTED MOTION/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION:

(OPTIONAL): Motion to direct staff to proceed with Land Development Regulations consistent with the current constitutional and statutory scheme regarding Medical Marijuana.
(OPTIONAL): Motion to direct staff to review possible changes to zoning for Pharmacies.
(OPTIONAL): Motion to direct staff to ban Medical Marijuana Dispensaries within the unincorporated area of St. Johns County.
(OPTIONAL): Motion to direct staff to extend the Moratorium on Medical Marijuana for a period of _____ months

For Administration Use Only:
Legal: N/A **OMB: N/A** **Admin: Joy Andrews 2/7/2018**

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-8

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO TWELVE (12) MONTHS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY; PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF QUALIFIED DISPENSING FACILITIES FOR LOW-THC AND MEDICAL CANNABIS AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS FOR MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES DURING THE UP TO TWELVE MONTH MORATORIUM PERIOD; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Florida Legislature passed the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014, legalizing the cultivation, processing and dispensing of low-THC cannabis by qualified dispensing organizations to qualified patients; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Florida Legislature amended the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014, legalizing the cultivation, processing, and dispensing of medical cannabis and derived products by qualified dispensing organizations to eligible patients; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional Amendment No. 2 was approved by the voters of the State of Florida on November 8, 2016 by a margin of 71.3% in favor of the amendment to 28.7% opposed and became effective on January 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional Amendment No. 2 was approved by the voters of St. Johns County, Florida on November 8, 2016 by a margin of 98,312 votes (72.73%) in favor of the amendment to 36,856 (27.27%) opposed; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional Amendment No. 2 provides for facilities for the medical use of marijuana to be known as Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs); and

WHEREAS, Constitutional Amendment No. 2 provides that the Department of Health is to promulgate rules within six months after the effective date of the Amendment that provide, among other things, for the registration of MMTCs no later than nine months after the effective date of the Amendment; and

WHEREAS, future constitutional amendments and legislation may further expand the legal use of low-THC and medical cannabis and marijuana for medical purposes in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to study the impacts of qualified dispensing organizations for dispensing low-THC and medical cannabis and MMTCs for dispensing marijuana for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners intends, as part of its study, to provide regulatory guidance for the establishment and operation of qualified dispensing organization for

dispensing low-THC and medical cannabis and MMTCs for dispensing marijuana for medical purposes within the unincorporated areas of St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, two public hearings as required by Section 125.66(4)(b), Florida Statutes, have been advertised and held; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Agency, as the local planning agency, has made a recommendation of consistency with the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan as required by Section 163.3174(4)(c), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that enacting this temporary moratorium is appropriate to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County Florida on this 31st day of March, 2017 as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The above recitals are incorporated herein as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. Moratorium on the Establishment and Operation of Qualified Dispensing Organizations for Dispensing Low-THC and Medical Cannabis and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) for Dispensing Marijuana for Medical Purposes. The Board of County Commissioners declares and enacts:

a. A temporary moratorium for a period of twelve (12) months is in effect prohibiting the acceptance, processing, or approval of any application, including any application for a business tax receipt or occupational license, within the unincorporated area of St. Johns County relating to the establishment or operation of qualified dispensing organizations for dispensing low-THC and medical cannabis and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) for dispensing marijuana for medical purposes from the effective date of this ordinance until twelve months from the effective date of approval or until appropriate land development regulations become effective, whichever occurs first;

b. During the moratorium, County staff shall study the establishment and operation of qualified dispensing organizations for dispensing low-THC and medical cannabis and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) for dispensing marijuana for medical purposes;

c. County staff shall report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners, together with any ordinance for the Board's consideration, prior to the expiration of the temporary moratorium period; and

d. If County staff requires additional time to complete the study and provide its recommendations to the Board, the Board may consider extending the moratorium period through a subsequent ordinance providing the justification for the extension, with the extension of the moratorium subject solely to the Board's discretion; provided, however, that the moratorium shall not be unnecessarily extended so as to prevent the

establishment or operation of qualified dispensing organization for dispensing low-THC and medical cannabis and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) for dispensing marijuana for medical purposes within the unincorporated area of St. Johns County; and

e. The Board may repeal this temporary moratorium through a subsequent ordinance or subsequent resolution at any time prior to expiration of the moratorium.

Section 3. **Severability**. If any section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this ordinance not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

Section 4. **Conflicts.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective as provided for by law.

PASSED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THIS 21 **DAY OF** March **2017.**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
James K. Johns, Chair

RENDITION DATE March 23, 2017

ATTEST: Hunter S. Conrad, Clerk

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

Effective Date: March 24, 2017

ST. JOHNS COUNTY FLORIDA

THE ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD

MINUTES AND RECORDS
500 SAN SEBASTIAN VIEW
SAINT AUGUSTINE FL 32084

Ref.#:
P.O.#:

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING SUNDAY THRU SATURDAY
ST. AUGUSTINE AND ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared **JAMIE WILLIAMS** who on oath says that he/she is an Employee of the St. Augustine Record, a daily newspaper published at St. Augustine in St. Johns County, Florida: that the attached copy of advertisement being a

In the matter of **MMTC ORDINANCE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -**

was published in said newspaper on **02/27/2017**

Affiant further says that the St. Augustine Record is a newspaper published at St. Augustine, in said St. Johns County, Florida, and that the said newspaper heretofore has been continuously published in said St. Johns County, Florida, each day and has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in the City of St. Augustine, in said St. Johns County, for a period of one year preceding the first publication of the copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he/she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing the advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of FEB 2 7 2017

by Jamie Williams who is personally known to me
or who has produced as identification

ERIC DAMIEN MCBRIDE
MY COMMISSION # FF925198
EXPIRES October 07, 2019
(407) 398-0153 FloridaNotaryService.com

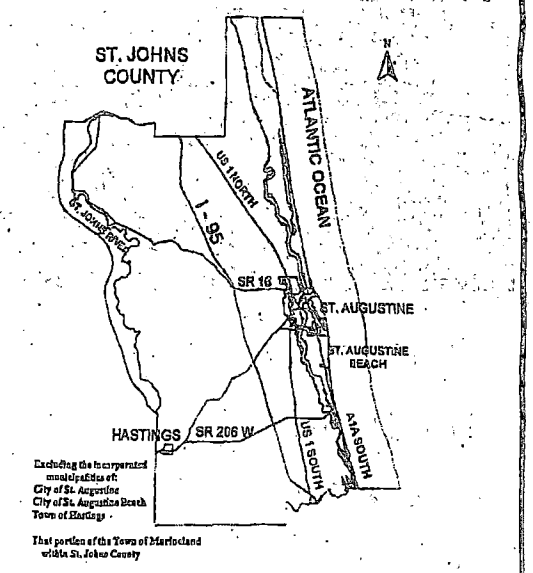
(Signature of Notary Public) (Seal)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PLANNING & ZONING AGENCY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ORDINANCE/REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE USE OF LAND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the following proposed ordinance at a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., and at a regular meeting of the Planning & Zoning Agency on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., in the County Auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO TWELVE (12) MONTHS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY; PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF QUALIFIED DISPENSING FACILITIES FOR LOW-THC AND MEDICAL CANNABIS AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS FOR MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES DURING THE UP TO TWELVE MONTH MORATORIUM PERIOD; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida, and may be examined by parties interested prior to the said public hearings. Please take note that the proposed ordinance is subject to revision prior to the hearing or adoption. All parties having any interest in said ordinance will be afforded an opportunity to be heard at the public hearings.



If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the hearings, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceedings should contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 209-0650 at the St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. For hearing impaired individuals: Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than 5 days prior to the date of the meetings.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
HUNTER S. CONRAD, ITS CLERK
By: Yvonne King, Deputy Clerk
1002275931 February 27, 2017

THE ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT

MINUTES AND RECORDS
500 SAN SEBASTIAN VIEW
SAINT AUGUSTINE FL 32084

Ref.#:
P.O.#:

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING SUNDAY THRU SATURDAY
ST. AUGUSTINE AND ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared **JAMIE WILLIAMS**

who on oath says that he/she is an Employee of the St. Augustine Record,

a daily newspaper published at St. Augustine in St. Johns County, Florida:

that the attached copy of advertisement being a

In the matter of **MMTC MORATORIUM ORDINANCE -**

was published in said newspaper on **03/13/2017**

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of MAR 1 3 2017

by Jamie Williams who is personally known to me
or who has produced as identification

ERIC DAMIEN MCBRIDE
MY COMMISSION # FF925198
EXPIRES October 07, 2019
1-(407) 398-0153 FloridaNotaryService.com

(Signature of Notary Public) (Seal)

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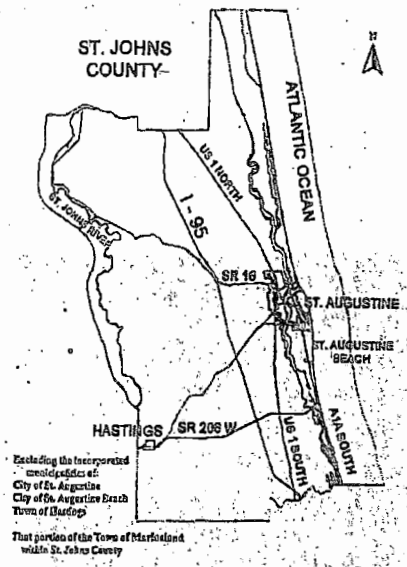

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
HUNTER S. CONRAD, ITS CLERK
By: Yvonne King, Deputy Clerk
1002284646 March 13, 2017

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

March 24, 2017

FILED March 24, 2017
ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT
BY: Yvonne King
DEPUTY CLERK

Honorable Hunter S. Conrad
Clerk of Court
St. Johns County
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Attention: Ms. Yvonne King

Dear Mr. Conrad:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of St. Johns Ordinance No. 2017-8, which was filed in this office on March 24, 2017.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Reddick
Program Administrator

ELR/lb

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-_____

AN ORDINANCE OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE 99-51, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE THE MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS; AMENDING ARTICLE II, PART 2.02.00 USES WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS TO ZONE MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS AND RELATED USES; AMENDING ARTICLE VI, PART 6.08.00 SUPPLEMENTAL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIED USES TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS AND RELATED USES; AMENDING ARTICLE XII, PART 12.01.00 DEFINITIONS TO PROVIDE FOR DEFINITIONS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS AND RELATED USES; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION AND CODIFICATION AND SCRIVNERS ERRORS INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, local land development regulations require evaluation and revision to address public health, safety and welfare issues that may occur during the implementation of land development regulations such as the provision of clear design standards for permissible uses; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional Amendment No. 2, now Article X, Section 29 of the Florida Constitution was approved by the voters of the State of Florida and by the Voters of St. Johns County, Florida on November 8, 2016 by 72.73%; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 29 provides for the medical use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 29 provides for facilities for the medical use of marijuana known as Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) to be registered with the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, Section 381.986, Florida Statutes, governs the registration and licensing of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers; and

WHEREAS, Section 381.986(11) (2017) sets out restrictions on County authority to regulate Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers; and

WHEREAS, MMTCs are a new use that, due to the nature of the product grown, processed, and offered for sale, requires different treatment from Pharmacies and specific land development regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that within the bounds of the law, regulatory guidance for the establishment and operation of MMTCs facilitates the orderly development of the unicorporated areas of St. Johns County; and

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WHEREAS, the County believes that Articles II, VI, and XII of the County's current Land Development Code, Ordinance No. 99-51, as previously amended, can be further improved by modifications herein; and

WHEREAS, it is found that the hereinafter Ordinance provisions are consistent with, and restore and implement provisions of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Amendment of St. Johns County as adopted and enacted on August 17, 2010;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY:

Section 1. Legislative Findings of Fact. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, finds and declares that all the statements set forth in the preamble of this ordinance are true and correct.

Section 2. Use Classification. Section 2.02.01 Use Classifcations and Definitions of the St. Johns County Ordinance No. 99-51, as previously amended, is hereby amended as provided in the attached and incorporated **Exhibit "A"**.

Section 3. Supplemental Design Standards. Section 6.08.43 is added to Part 6.08.00 of the St. Johns County Land Development Code, Ordinance No. 99-51, as previously amended, in the attached and incorporated **Exhibit "B".**

Section 4. Definitions. The following definitions are added to Part 12.01.00, Article XII Definitions of the St. Johns County Land Development Code, Ordinance 99-51, as attached and incorporated as **EXHIBIT "C".**

Section 5. The remaining portions of the St. Johns County Land Development Code, Ordinance 99-51, as amended, which are not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Modification. It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this ordinance may be modified as a result of considerations that may arise during public hearings. Such modifications shall be incorporated into the final version of the ordinance adopted by the Board and filed with the Clerk to the Board.

Section 7. Inclusion and Codification into the Land Development Code; Scrivener's Error. It is the intent of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be codified and made part of the St. Johns County Land Development Code, Ordinance No. 99-51, as previously amended, and that the sections and attachments of this ordinance may be renumbered, reorganized, relettered, and appropriately incorporated into the Land Development Code in order to accomplish such intentions. The correction of typographical errors that do not affect the intent of the ordinance may be authorized by the County Adminsitrator or designee, without public hearing, by filing a corrected or re-codified copy of the same with the Clerk of the Board.

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Section 8. Ordinance to be Liberally Construed. This ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes hereof which are deemed not to adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare.

Section 9. Severance Clause. It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, and is hereby provided, that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 10. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its being filed with the Department of State of Florida.

PASSED AND ENACTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this _____day of _____, 2018 .

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:_____
Henry Dean, Chair

ATTEST: Hunter S. Contrad, Clerk of Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Effective Date:_____

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PART 2.02.00 USES ALLOWED WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS

Sec. 2.02.01 Use Classifications and Definitions

The following Sections describe the categories of Uses which apply within St. Johns County. Each category contains a description of the fundamental characteristics of the category and a list of representative Uses. It is not possible to list each and every individual Use which may be allowable within a category. The intent is to describe the category and provide a sufficient number of illustrative or representative Uses to allow other Uses to be assigned to a category as they are proposed in a zoning district.

A. Residential Uses

Residential Uses are those which provide dwellings or Structures intended for occupancy for housekeeping, and includes units which are Single Family detached, accessory apartments, multi-family in a variety of housing styles, including but not limited to duplex, triplex, quadplex, garden apartments, villas and townhouses, mid-rise and high-rise apartment Buildings, and garage apartments. Also included are Manufactured/Modular Homes, Manufactured/Mobile Homes, condominium ownership, cooperatives, and other ownership arrangements. Residential Uses also include Special Care Housing including group homes, congregate care homes, assisted living facilities, and foster homes; cemeteries and mausoleums; schools with conventional academic curriculum and Community Marinas. Residential Uses also include model homes, with or without sales office and construction trailers. Certain Uses are also allowable in the residential Use category by Special Use, and are specified in Part 2.03.00. Residential units, while allowable, shall not exceed the density limitations shown in the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, not all housing types are allowable in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.02.03 which describes which housing types are allowable in each residential zoning district.

B. Agricultural Uses

1. Agricultural Uses are those related to the production, keeping, or maintenance, whether for sale or personal use, of plants and Animals for food, forage, fiber, or ornamental purposes. Agricultural Uses are characterized as predominantly outdoor activities, with Structures that may cover portions of the land, such as specific production activities, like poultry houses, greenhouses, and kennels. The Uses within this category may include both domestic and exotic species, except as specifically prohibited by other regulations. Agricultural Uses may also include passive outdoor recreational activities, Bed and Breakfast establishments, Retreats and similar passive rural Uses. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category are silviculture; horticulture; aquaculture; crop production; pasture lands; livestock; horses, ponies and other Animals; bee keeping; orchards; plant nurseries; Cultivating Facilities (MMTC); Processing Facilities (MMTC); General Stores and feed stores; cemeteries and mausoleums; Special Care Housing including group homes, congregate care homes, assisted living facilities, and foster homes; veterinary offices and Animal hospitals with

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outside Kennels; Kennels and other Animal boarding facilities; dog and domestic animal parks; Rural Home Industry; Agricultural Manufacturing; and Structures and facilities necessary to agricultural production activities, including barns, sties, pens, corrals, stables, greenhouses, milking parlors and dairies, feedlots, silos, and other substantially similar facilities and Structures whether for the primary Use or accessory to agricultural activity. Also included is treated Wastewater land application disposal. Agricultural Uses may also include, farm worker housing, and residences for the farm owner, operator, or caretaker, where those Uses are directly associated with the principal Agricultural Use of the land. Bed and Breakfast establishments limited to a maximum of ten (10) rental units, Primitive Campgrounds, Retreats limited to a maximum of ten (10) rental units and not exceeding an overnight occupancy of twenty (20) persons, Private Clubs, dude ranch, riding academy, hunting camps, game preserves, wildlife preserves, outdoor events, outdoor arenas and outdoor firing ranges, and aircraft landing fields shall be permitted.

C. Cultural/Institutional Uses

1. Cultural/Institutional Uses provide a personal service in the form of education, culture, fine arts displays and exhibits, and similar activities. Uses in this category are predominantly day-time activities. However, due to the nature of the Cultural/Institutional Use, traffic, parking, use of land coverage may be increased for special events. Users and employees may vary due to the nature of Cultural/Institutional Uses. Institutional Uses may be public or private. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Cultural/Institutional Uses in this category are libraries, galleries, and museums; schools with conventional academic curriculum; child care, adult day care, or child nurseries; Community Centers; churches and synagogues; Private Clubs; parks and recreation facilities with or without lighted fields and courts. Specifically not included in this category are theaters and auditoriums or other similar places of assembly; colleges and universities are listed under Regional Culture and Entertainment Facilities.

D. Neighborhood Business and Commercial Uses

1. Land Use activities in this category are those which serve the surrounding neighborhood or a small group of neighborhoods. Uses typically require direct access to collectors, and operate primarily in daytime or early evening hours. Development may generally include one-story and low-rise Buildings outside of activity centers. This category does not include large-scale discount supercenters or big box retailers. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include commercial indoor recreation, archery facilities, entertainment, retail, hospitality, and general business, such as retail goods stores; financial institutions with or without drive-through facilities; funeral homes and mortuaries; neighborhood Convenience Stores without gas pumps; grocery stores; specialty food stores; pharmacies without drive through facilities; Dispensing Facilities (MMTC) without drive-through facilities; billiards and pool

parlors, spas, gyms, and health clubs; commercial, vocational, business or trade schools; churches; Bed and Breakfast establishments limited to a maximum of (10) rental units; personal property mini-warehouses; Recreational vehicle/boat storage; service businesses such as blueprint, printing, catering, travel agencies, mail and package services and laundries; veterinary offices without outside boarding facilities and enclosed within a sound proof building; personal services such as beauty shops, barbers, or photography studios; Adult Care Centers, Child Care Centers, Nursing Homes; psychics in accordance with St. Johns County Ordinance 98-18, as may be amended; Restaurants without drive-through facilities; Take-Out Restaurants; Community Marinas; medical and Professional Offices, and governmental branch offices, schools for the performing or fine arts and for martial arts.

E. General Business and Commercial Uses

1. Land Use activities in this category are those which serve the surrounding neighborhood, a small group of neighborhoods, or are community serving. Uses typically require direct access to Collectors and Arterials, may operate primarily in daytime or early evening hours. Development may generally include a predominance of one-story and low-rise Buildings outside of activity centers. Uses tend to be in individual Structures or in community scale shopping centers. This category does not include large-scale discount supercenters or big box retailers. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include commercial recreation, archery facilities, entertainment, retail, hospitality, and general business, such as retail goods stores; financial institutions with or without drive-through facilities; pharmacies with or without drive-through facilities; Dispensing Facilities (MMTC) with or without drive-through facilities; free-standing ATM's; funeral homes and mortuaries; crematoriums; indoor farm and garden supply centers; outdoor plant sales; outdoor storage; neighborhood Convenience Stores with or without gas pumps; gas stations without auto service or repair; car wash facilities; automobile oil change facilities; tire service centers; small car rental offices with associated rental fleet; grocery stores, specialty food stores, and supermarkets; bowling alleys, billiards and pool parlors, spas, gyms, and health clubs; community hospitals; commercial, vocational, business or trade schools; Bed and Breakfast establishments and guest lodges limited to a maximum of ten (10) rental units; personal property mini-warehouses; Recreational vehicle/boat storage; service businesses such as blueprint, printing, catering, travel agencies, mail and package services, small appliance repair shops, upholstery, and laundries; personal services such as beauty shops, barbers, employment services, bail bond agencies, photography studios, psychics in accordance with St. Johns County Ordinance 98-18, as may be amended, Adult Care Centers, Child Care Centers, Nursing Homes; psychiatric care and treatment facilities with or without housing, alcohol rehabilitation centers with or without housing, Restaurants with or without drive-through facilities; Community Marinas, Marinas; general offices, medical offices, veterinary offices without outside boarding facilities and enclosed within a sound proof building with no more than ten (10) outside runs which shall not exceed a total area of six hundred forty (640) square feet, Professional Offices, and government offices; golf driving ranges; schools for the performing or fine arts and for martial arts; movie

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theaters with three (3) or less screens.

F. Town Center Mixed Use

1. Land Use Activities in this category are those which serve the surrounding neighborhood community, or small group of neighborhoods with community services, beach & recreational resort services and government services & facilities. Uses are limited to and promote the Vilano Beach Town Center Mixed Use District with a combination of mixed commercial, business, office and multi-family residential, civic, and government activities. Development may generally include two to three story buildings within the Town Center. This category does not include large-scale super centers or big box retailers, drive-throughs, or outdoor storage, but does include and encourage outdoor activities associated with the permitted and accessory uses. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include retail, general business, office, hospitality, hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, personal services, grocery store, pharmacy, Dispensing Facilities (MMTC), banks, medical and professional offices, veterinary offices without outside boarding and enclosed kennels, personal services such as beauty shops, barbers, and day spas, daily neighborhood business services, mail and package services, restaurants, bars, and pubs, night clubs, deli, catering, billiards and pool parlors, specialty food, liquor and wine stores, video, print and copy shop, urgent care facilities (not hospitals), health clubs, gyms, psychics, multi-family residential, government branch services & facilities, e.g including but not limited to, e.g. post office, branch libraries, sheriff substation, Town Center Main Street office, and cultural centers, vendors subject to permitting, school for performing or cultural arts, indoor recreation including movie theater or live theatre, alcoholic beverages sales subject to Section 2.03.01 and 2.03.02 and the source of outdoor amplified music is allowed within 50 feet of existing residentially zoned properties.

3. List of uses that are encouraged, but not limited to, are outdoor sit down cafes, art galleries, pottery shops, apparel, vintage clothing, gift shops, home décor and garden stores, bookstore, kite shop, surf shop, bike shop, specialty electronics, drycleaners (mail and package only), travel agencies, real estate offices, financial advisor office, and live-work units.

G. Highway Commercial Uses

1. Business Uses generally require accesses to an Arterial or Major Collector or have close proximity to Major Intersections. Highway Commercial Uses are those which serve the traveling public and are oriented to vehicular travel; however, they are distinguished from High Intensity Uses by scale and intensity. These Uses are typically not of an overall size or Building mass, as an activity center. Development generally includes one-story and low-rise Buildings and Uses tend to be in individual Structures. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include, but are not limited to the following: Service Stations with or without retail food sales; automobile oil change facilities limited to

DRAFT

three (3) enclosed service bays; automobile service and repair facilities performing similar activities as Service Stations and limited to three (3) enclosed service bays with no outdoor storage of automobile parts; car wash facilities; Restaurants, with or without drive-through facilities; agricultural stands, temporary or permanent; outdoor plant sales; Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds; Marinas; Hotels and Motels; Adult Arcade Amusement Centers; Electronic Game Promotions; indoor activities allowed by or on the premises of a licensed pari-mutuel permit holder; Retreats; Fish Camps; Convenience Stores, with or without gasoline sales; Truck Stops; retail sales of items catering to tourists; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

H. High Intensity Commercial Uses

1. Business Uses generally require access to an Arterial or Major Collector or have close proximity to Major Intersections or interchanges with limited access facilities. These Uses are characterized by outdoor activity and outdoor storage, and large demand for parking. High Intensity Commercial Uses are those which are major employment centers, or which serve the traveling public and are oriented to vehicular travel; however, they are distinguished from regional Uses by scale. These Uses are intense as measured by the impacts to adjacent properties, but are typically not of an overall size or Building mass as a regional activity center. These Uses often have an actual or potential negative impact on surrounding properties due to late hours of operation, noise, and or light. Uses may be located in several Buildings, as in shopping centers or business parks, or may be located in a single Building, such as a discount supercenter, or big box retailer. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include, but are not limited to the following: all types of vehicle sales, rental, service, repair, and storage, including Truck Stops, body shops, road services, car wash facilities, and the sales, rental, repair and service of new or used automobiles, boats, buses, farm and garden equipment, motorcycles, trucks, Recreational Vehicles, and Manufactured/Mobile Homes; Service Stations, Convenience Stores with or without gas pumps, large scale discount centers, supercenters, large scale Building supply centers and do-it-yourself centers, big-box retailers; outdoor plant and garden supply sales; Professional Offices, general offices, government offices; newspaper printing operations and distribution centers; free-standing taverns, Bars, lounges, Night Clubs, and dance halls; psychics in accordance with St. Johns County Ordinance 98-18, as may be amended; financial institutions with or without drive-through facilities; Restaurants with or without drive-through facilities; commercial recreation; vocational, technical and trade schools; facilities operated by a licensed pari-mutuel permit holder; Adult Arcade Amusement Centers; Electronic Game Promotions; indoor activities allowed by or on the premises of a licensed pari-mutuel permit holder; agricultural stands, temporary or permanent; outdoor arenas, rodeo grounds, livestock auction facilities, race tracks (auto, dog, go-kart, horse, motorcycle), indoor shooting and firing ranges; Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds; Ports, Marinas; veterinary offices and Animal hospital with outside Kennels; Kennels and other Animal boarding facilities; storage yards for equipment, machinery, dry storage for boats, and supplies for Building and trades contractors, landscaping services, garbage haulers; extermination and pest control

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services; Flea Markets or similar outdoor or indoor/outdoor sales complexes, whether temporary or permanent; Hotels and Motels; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

I. Rural Commercial Uses

1. Activities in this category include those business and commercial Uses supportive of and intended to serve rural communities and which are compatible with rural land uses and intensities. Uses may be required to have direct access to an Arterial or Collector roadway, and operate primarily in daytime or early evening hours. Development may include one-story and low-rise Buildings outside of activity centers. This category does not include large-scale discount supercenters or big box retailers. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include, but are not limited to the following: General Stores; Restaurants, with or without drive-through facilities; establishments for the retail sale of motor fuels; farm and garden supply stores; car wash facilities automobile oil change facilities ; tire service centers; bait and tackle and general supplies; agricultural stands; nurseries; Fish Camps; Community Marinas; Bed and Breakfast establishments; Retreats; Primitive Campgrounds; Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds; Private Clubs; hunt clubs; saddle clubs; riding academies; boarding stables; shooting ranges; veterinary offices and Animal hospitals with outside Kennels; Kennels and other Animal boarding facilities; outdoor storage; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

J. Light Industrial Uses

1. The characteristics of Uses in this category include large Lots, often with a single user or single employer, where light manufacturing, storing, or distribution of goods occurs. Buildings are typically one floor, but may cover large portions of land. Businesses may operate on a twenty-four (24) hour time frame and include two (2) or three (3) shifts per day. Truck and rail traffic are common. However, noise, dust and air quality impacts are minimal. These Uses may also have substantial and significant outdoor storage and/or outdoor activity. Uses may or may not be open to the general public. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category are light manufacturing, vegetable food processing, production, packaging and assembly plants; Processing Facilities (MMTC); warehousing, with or without distribution centers; lumberyards; large-scale printing plants, newspaper printing operations and distribution centers; business and commerce parks; Ports, Marinas; office showrooms; Vehicle Recycling facilities; composting and other yard waste facilities; extermination and pest control services; storage yards for equipment, machinery, dry storage for boats, and supplies for building and trades contractors, landscaping services, garbage haulers, appliance repair shops, machine shops; all types of vehicle repair and storage, including body shops, repair and service centers; Boat and RV storage; personal property mini-warehousing; indoor Kennels and other animal boarding facilities; veterinary office and animal hospitals, groomers; vocational, technical

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and trades school; commercial recreation; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

K. Heavy Industrial Uses

1. The characteristics of Uses in this category include large Lots, often with a single user or single employer, where heavy manufacturing, processing, storing, or distribution of goods occurs. Buildings are typically one floor, but may cover large portions of land. Businesses may operate on a twenty-four (24) hour time frame and include two (2), and three (3) shifts per day. Truck and rail traffic are common. Businesses may cause negative impacts from truck traffic, rail, noise, air, chemical, heat producing, and manufacturing processes are typical Uses in this category. These Uses may also have substantial and significant outdoor storage and/or outdoor activity. Uses are not typically open to the general public. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category are heavy manufacturing, slaughterhouse and Animal processing plants; Processing Facilities (MMTC); Port facilities, Marinas; power plants; dry cleaning plants; metal and rubber fabrication; chemical and fertilizer manufacturing; paper and pulp manufacturing; petroleum refining; plastics, glass, cement, concrete, and clay manufacturing; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

L. Mining and Extractive Activities

This category includes all Uses where resources are removed from the ground, such as mines, borrow pits, and other similar activities and may include the on-site processing of such resources. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

M. Office and Professional Services

1. Office and Professional Service Uses have primarily day-time operations. Normally there is an absence of impacts due to noise, light, or pollution. There is no outdoor storage or outdoor activity associated with these Uses. Commercial Uses are accessory only. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Typical Uses in this category include service businesses such as blueprint, printing, catering, travel agencies, mail and package services, small appliance repair shops, upholstery, and laundries; personal services such as beauty shops, barbers, bail bond agencies, employment services, or photography studios; vocational, technical, and trade schools; Restaurants; general offices, Professional Offices, and government offices; medical offices or clinics with scheduled or emergency services by physicians, dentists, Chiropractors, psychiatrists, podiatrists, physical therapists, optometrists, and other medical practitioners; medical laboratories. This category also includes diagnostic centers which provide radiology, and medical screening and testing services. Facilities to provide medical equipment, supplies, devices, eyeglasses, hearing aids, or other similar items for personal use upon advice of a health provider may be included in this

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category so long as they are functionally associated with the office or clinic and are not an isolated or freestanding Use. This category does not include hospitals or other health care facilities which provide overnight lodging.

N. Outdoor/Passive Uses

1. Outdoor/Passive Uses are characterized by Uses which have large amounts of land with few Structures, normally minimum outdoor lighting. Activities tend to be low impact and are predominately daytime activities. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Included are walking and hiking trails, bridle paths, greenways, game preserves, natural preserves, parks with picnic areas, primitive camps, and similar low impact Uses. Also allowable are country clubs, golf clubs, golf driving ranges (provided they function accessory to and on the same site as a golf course or country club), and cemeteries (either human or pet). Mausoleums may be permitted provided they function accessory to and on the same site as related cemetery.

O. Neighborhood Public Service and Emergency Service Uses

1. This category represents those neighborhood-scale Uses which may have limited outdoor storage and outdoor activity, and may cause potential nuisance, but are nevertheless necessary as support to surrounding Uses. Any potential nuisance is mitigated by limitations on scale of Development, consistent with neighborhood scale Development. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. The type of Uses included in this category include, but are not limited to neighborhood-scale fire stations, police stations, emergency medical services and facilities; water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and facilities and components of water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and facilities; electric substations; telephone equipment stations, switching stations, and similar communication facilities; communication Antennas and Antenna Towers; neighborhood support services; Social Assistance Centers; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses. Neighborhood Public Service and Emergency Service Uses shall not include the erection of structures, buildings, or office facilities for commercial activities, such as the sale of related merchandise or collection of bills, in those zoning districts where such commercial and office activities are prohibited.

P. General Public Service and Emergency Service Uses

1. This category represents those Uses which often operate on a twenty-four (24) hour time frame and have a high degree of outdoor storage and outdoor activity. These Uses may cause a nuisance due to noise, and high levels of truck or large vehicle traffic. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. The types of Uses included in this category include, but are not limited to public use Airports, terminals, heliports, and associated infrastructure; seaplane support facilities; rail yards and terminals; ambulance services; fire stations; police stations,

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emergency medical services and facilities; government offices and facilities; water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and facilities and components of water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and facilities; electric substations; maintenance, garage, and storage yards for school buses, highway Construction equipment, telephone equipment, utility company trucks and equipment; microwave, radio, and television transmission towers; radiotelephone communication facilities; communication Antennas and Antenna Towers; and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

Q. Regional Business and Commercial Uses

This category contains those business and commercial Uses which serve several communities or an entire region. These Uses typically locate near a limited access transportation facility or the intersection of major Arterials. Uses tend to be located in large-scale complexes, such as a commercial shopping mall, commerce park, or similar facility. The distinguishing characteristics of this category are not the specific Uses which may be included, but the scale of the Development. All Uses in the General Business and Commercial, High Intensity Commercial, and Office and Professional Services may be allowable due to scale and intensity of Use. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

R. Regional Cultural and Entertainment Facilities

1. This category contains those cultural and entertainment Uses which serve an entire region or the entire state. These Uses typically locate near a limited access transportation facility or the intersection of major Arterials and require large amounts of parking. Uses are often enclosed with controlled access from the surrounding area. Uses are often under the control of a single entity. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

2. Uses in this category include colleges and universities, amusement and theme parks, performing arts centers, hospitals and medical centers, convention centers, and other substantially similar facilities and Uses.

S. Solid Waste & Correctional Facilities

This category is for Uses such as landfills (Class I, II, and III), solid waste transfer facilities, hazardous waste transfer facilities, recycling centers, composting and other yard waste facilities, and other substantially similar facilities and Uses. Also, criminal justice detention facilities and other correctional institutions and facilities are included in this category. In addition, not all Uses are allowable by right in every zoning district. Refer to Section 2.03.00 which describes Uses by zoning district.

History: Ord. 2013-4; Ord. 2013-26; Ord. 2015-14; Ord. 2016-36

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Sec. 6.04.43 Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

A. Intent and Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to establish minimum supplemental criteria for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers as required and allowed by Law. Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers are further regulated and licensed by state laws and regulations. This section does not apply to establishments seeking to cultivate, process, transport, or dispense Marijuana that are not licensed and registered Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers nor does this section apply to recreational use of Marijuana.

B. Minimum Application Requirements

1. Proof of State License or Registration

a. Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers seeking to locate and operate in the unincorporated areas of St. Johns County shall provide proof and evidence of license or registration with the Florida Department of Health as required by Art. X, S. 29 of the Florida Constitution and Section 381.986, Florida Statutes.

2. Dispensing Facility subject to same standards as Pharmacy

a. Except as provided in this Section, Dispensing Facilities will be subject to the same permitting and site development standards in this Code as pharmacies.

3. Distance from Schools for MMTCs

a. Cultivating Facility, Cannabis Farm, Processing Facility: May not be located within 500 feet of the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, or secondary school. The distance is measured from property line to property line, without regard to route of travel, and may not be waived or varied.

b. Dispensing Facility, Retail Facility, or Dispensary: The retail component of a MMTC may not be located within 500 feet of the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, or secondary school. This distance is measured from property line to property line, without regard to route of travel. Deviations from this minimum distance requirement must be approved by a public hearing using zoning variance criteria. This minimum distance does not apply to pharmacies not engaged in the Medical Use of Marijuana.

c. Interpretation of “School”

The word “school” as used in this section means:

i. An establishment that is licensed as a general education or vocational facility under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Education, or

ii. An establishment that offers general vocational education which includes courses of general education accepted by the Florida Department of Education for transfer to a school under their jurisdiction.

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Day care centers, day nurseries, nursery schools, and kindergartens that do not include general education or vocational programs along with conventional child care activities are not considered “schools” as defined in this Section.

d. Subsequent Establishment of School

Whenever a MMTC has procured a license from the Department of Health and has commenced operation of cultivating, processing, or dispensing Medical Marijuana, as applicable, in a properly zoned and particular location and afterwards a School is established in a distance prohibited by this Code, the establishment of a School will not cause the discontinuance of the MMTC at that location nor will the MMTC at that location be considered or subject to the limitations of non-conforming uses as provided in Part 1.03.00 of this Code.

C. Application of the Florida Building Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, local amendments.

Pursuant to Section 381.986, Florida Statutes, all Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers are subject to the Florida Building Code, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and any local amendments to the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

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Medical Marijuana: means all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center for medical use by a qualified patient. This definition does not include marijuana for non-medical use.

Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MMTC): has the same meaning as Article X, Section 29(b)(5) of the Florida Constitution, further regulated in Section 381.986(8), Florida Statutes (2017), and means an entity that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their caregivers, and is registered by the Department of Health. For purposes of this Code, MMTC also applies to Dispensing Organizations registered pursuant to the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014. MMTC does not apply to entities not registered with the Department of Health or otherwise not allowed pursuant to state law. The following components are considered part of a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center:

a. **Cultivating Facility or Cannabis Farm:** The agricultural component of a MMTC that grows, harvests, and cultivates marijuana for a Medical Use as allowed by law.

b. **Dispensing Facility, Retail Facility, or Dispensary:** The retail component of a MMTC that sells, distributes, dispenses or administers Medical Marijuana, products containing marijuana related supplies, or educational materials as allowed by law, including Section 381.986, Florida Statutes (2017).

c. **Processing Facility or Plant:** The processing component of a MMTC that converts marijuana into Medical Marijuana products as allowed by law.

Medical Use of Marijuana: has the same meaning as in Article X, Section 29(b)(6) of the Florida Constitution and Section 381.986(1)(j), Florida Statutes (2017).

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State Regulations

Article X, Section 29 of the Florida Constitution

Section 381.986, Florida Statutes (2017)

West's Florida Statutes Annotated
Florida Constitution--1968 Revision (Refs & Annos)
Article X. Miscellaneous (Refs & Annos)

West's F.S.A. Const. Art. 10 § 29

§ 29. Medical marijuana production, possession, and use

Currentness

(a) **Public policy.**

(1) The medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or caregiver in compliance with this section is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law.

(2) A physician shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law solely for issuing a physician certification with reasonable care to a person diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition in compliance with this section.

(3) Actions and conduct by a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center registered with the Department, or its agents or employees, and in compliance with this section and Department regulations, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law.

(b) **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Debilitating Medical Condition" means cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, or other debilitating medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated, and for which a physician believes that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for a patient.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Health or its successor agency.

(3) "Identification card" means a document issued by the Department that identifies a qualifying patient or a caregiver.

(4) "Marijuana" has the meaning given cannabis in Section 893.02(3), Florida Statutes (2014), and, in addition, "Low-THC cannabis" as defined in Section 381.986(1)(b), Florida Statutes (2014), shall also be included in the meaning of the term "marijuana."

(5) "Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" (MMTC) means an entity that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports,

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sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their caregivers and is registered by the Department.

(6) “Medical use” means the acquisition, possession, use, delivery, transfer, or administration of an amount of marijuana not in conflict with Department rules, or of related supplies by a qualifying patient or caregiver for use by the caregiver’s designated qualifying patient for the treatment of a debilitating medical condition.

(7) “Caregiver” means a person who is at least twenty-one (21) years old who has agreed to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana and has qualified for and obtained a caregiver identification card issued by the Department. The Department may limit the number of qualifying patients a caregiver may assist at one time and the number of caregivers that a qualifying patient may have at one time. Caregivers are prohibited from consuming marijuana obtained for medical use by the qualifying patient.

(8) “Physician” means a person who is licensed to practice medicine in Florida.

(9) “Physician certification” means a written document signed by a physician, stating that in the physician's professional opinion, the patient suffers from a debilitating medical condition, that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient, and for how long the physician recommends the medical use of marijuana for the patient. A physician certification may only be provided after the physician has conducted a physical examination and a full assessment of the medical history of the patient. In order for a physician certification to be issued to a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the minor must consent in writing.

(10) “Qualifying patient” means a person who has been diagnosed to have a debilitating medical condition, who has a physician certification and a valid qualifying patient identification card. If the Department does not begin issuing identification cards within nine (9) months after the effective date of this section, then a valid physician certification will serve as a patient identification card in order to allow a person to become a "qualifying patient" until the Department begins issuing identification cards.

(c) **Limitations.**

(1) Nothing in this section allows for a violation of any law other than for conduct in compliance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to non-medical use, possession, production, or sale of marijuana.

(3) Nothing in this section authorizes the use of medical marijuana by anyone other than a qualifying patient.

(4) Nothing in this section shall permit the operation of any vehicle, aircraft, train or boat while under the influence of marijuana.

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(5) Nothing in this section requires the violation of federal law or purports to give immunity under federal law.

(6) Nothing in this section shall require any accommodation of any on-site medical use of marijuana in any correctional institution or detention facility or place of education or employment, or of smoking medical marijuana in any public place.

(7) Nothing in this section shall require any health insurance provider or any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana.

(8) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to negligence or professional malpractice on the part of a qualified patient, caregiver, physician, MMTC, or its agents or employees.

(d) **Duties of the Department.** The Department shall issue reasonable regulations necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this section. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure the availability and safe use of medical marijuana by qualifying patients. It is the duty of the Department to promulgate regulations in a timely fashion.

(1) Implementing Regulations. In order to allow the Department sufficient time after passage of this section, the following regulations shall be promulgated no later than six (6) months after the effective date of this section:

a. Procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of qualifying patient identification cards to people with physician certifications and standards for renewal of such identification cards. Before issuing an identification card to a minor, the Department must receive written consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian, in addition to the physician certification.

b. Procedures establishing qualifications and standards for caregivers, including conducting appropriate background checks, and procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of caregiver identification cards

c. Procedures for the registration of MMTCs that include procedures for the issuance, renewal, suspension and revocation of registration, and standards to ensure proper security, record keeping, testing, labeling, inspection, and safety.

d. A regulation that defines the amount of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be an adequate supply for qualifying patients' medical use, based on the best available evidence. This presumption as to quantity may be overcome with evidence of a particular qualifying patient's appropriate medical use.

(2) Identification cards and registrations. The Department shall begin issuing qualifying patient and caregiver identification cards, and registering MMTCs no later than nine (9) months after the effective date of this section.

(3) If the Department does not issue regulations, or if the Department does not begin issuing identification cards and registering MMTCs within the time limits set in this section, any Florida citizen shall have standing to seek judicial relief to compel compliance with the Department's constitutional duties.

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(4) The Department shall protect the confidentiality of all qualifying patients. All records containing the identity of qualifying patients shall be confidential and kept from public disclosure other than for valid medical or law enforcement purposes.

(e) **Legislation.** Nothing in this section shall limit the legislature from enacting laws consistent with this section.

(f) **Severability.** The provisions of this section are severable and if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this measure, or an application thereof, is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction other provisions shall continue to be in effect to the fullest extent possible.

Credits
Added, general election, Nov. 8, 2016.

West's F. S. A. Const. Art. 10 § 29, FL CONST Art. 10 § 29
Current through November 8, 2016, General Election

End of Document

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 KeyCite Yellow Flag - Negative Treatment
Proposed Legislation

West's Florida Statutes Annotated
Title XXIX. Public Health (Chapters 381-408)
Chapter 381. Public Health: General Provisions (Refs & Annos)

West's F.S.A. § 381.986

381.986. Medical use of marijuana

Effective: June 23, 2017
Currentness

(1) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Caregiver” means a resident of this state who has agreed to assist with a qualified patient's medical use of marijuana, has a caregiver identification card, and meets the requirements of subsection (6).

(b) “Chronic nonmalignant pain” means pain that is caused by a qualifying medical condition or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of that qualifying medical condition.

(c) “Close relative” means a spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent, child, or grandchild, whether related by whole or half blood, by marriage, or by adoption.

(d) “Edibles” means commercially produced food items made with marijuana oil, but no other form of marijuana, that are produced and dispensed by a medical marijuana treatment center.

(e) “Low-THC cannabis” means a plant of the genus *Cannabis*, the dried flowers of which contain 0.8 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol and more than 10 percent of cannabidiol weight for weight; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant or its seeds or resin that is dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center.

(f) “Marijuana” means all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

(g) “Marijuana delivery device” means an object used, intended for use, or designed for use in preparing, storing, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body, and which is dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

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(h) “Marijuana testing laboratory” means a facility that collects and analyzes marijuana samples from a medical marijuana treatment center and has been certified by the department pursuant to s. 381.988.

(i) “Medical director” means a person who holds an active, unrestricted license as an allopathic physician under chapter 458 or osteopathic physician under chapter 459 and is in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3)(c).

(j) “Medical use” means the acquisition, possession, use, delivery, transfer, or administration of marijuana authorized by a physician certification. The term does not include:

1. Possession, use, or administration of marijuana that was not purchased or acquired from a medical marijuana treatment center.

2. Possession, use, or administration of marijuana in a form for smoking, in the form of commercially produced food items other than edibles, or of marijuana seeds or flower, except for flower in a sealed, tamper-proof receptacle for vaping.

3. Use or administration of any form or amount of marijuana in a manner that is inconsistent with the qualified physician's directions or physician certification.

4. Transfer of marijuana to a person other than the qualified patient for whom it was authorized or the qualified patient's caregiver on behalf of the qualified patient.

5. Use or administration of marijuana in the following locations:

a. On any form of public transportation, except for low-THC cannabis.

b. In any public place, except for low-THC cannabis.

c. In a qualified patient's place of employment, except when permitted by his or her employer.

d. In a state correctional institution, as defined in s. 944.02, or a correctional institution, as defined in s. 944.241.

e. On the grounds of a preschool, primary school, or secondary school, except as provided in s. 1006.062.

f. In a school bus, a vehicle, an aircraft, or a motorboat, except for low-THC cannabis.

(k) “Physician certification” means a qualified physician's authorization for a qualified patient to receive marijuana and a marijuana delivery device from a medical marijuana treatment center.

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(l) "Qualified patient" means a resident of this state who has been added to the medical marijuana use registry by a qualified physician to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device for a medical use and who has a qualified patient identification card.

(m) "Qualified physician" means a person who holds an active, unrestricted license as an allopathic physician under chapter 458 or as an osteopathic physician under chapter 459 and is in compliance with the physician education requirements of subsection (3).

(n) "Smoking" means burning or igniting a substance and inhaling the smoke.

(o) "Terminal condition" means a progressive disease or medical or surgical condition that causes significant functional impairment, is not considered by a treating physician to be reversible without the administration of life-sustaining procedures, and will result in death within 1 year after diagnosis if the condition runs its normal course.

(2) Qualifying medical conditions.--A patient must be diagnosed with at least one of the following conditions to qualify to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device:

(a) Cancer.

(b) Epilepsy.

(c) Glaucoma.

(d) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus.

(e) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

(f) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

(g) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

(h) Crohn's disease.

(i) Parkinson's disease.

(j) Multiple sclerosis.

(k) Medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(j).

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(l) A terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification.

(m) Chronic nonmalignant pain.

(3) Qualified physicians and medical directors.--

(a) Before being approved as a qualified physician, as defined in paragraph (1)(m), and before each license renewal, a physician must successfully complete a 2-hour course and subsequent examination offered by the Florida Medical Association or the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association which encompass the requirements of this section and any rules adopted hereunder. The course and examination shall be administered at least annually and may be offered in a distance learning format, including an electronic, online format that is available upon request. The price of the course may not exceed $500. A physician who has met the physician education requirements of former s. 381.986(4), Florida Statutes 2016, before June 23, 2017, shall be deemed to be in compliance with this paragraph from June 23, 2017, until 90 days after the course and examination required by this paragraph become available.

(b) A qualified physician may not be employed by, or have any direct or indirect economic interest in, a medical marijuana treatment center or marijuana testing laboratory.

(c) Before being employed as a medical director, as defined in paragraph (1)(i), and before each license renewal, a medical director must successfully complete a 2-hour course and subsequent examination offered by the Florida Medical Association or the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association which encompass the requirements of this section and any rules adopted hereunder. The course and examination shall be administered at least annually and may be offered in a distance learning format, including an electronic, online format that is available upon request. The price of the course may not exceed $500.

(4) Physician certification.--

(a) A qualified physician may issue a physician certification only if the qualified physician:

1. Conducted a physical examination while physically present in the same room as the patient and a full assessment of the medical history of the patient.

2. Diagnosed the patient with at least one qualifying medical condition.

3. Determined that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient, and such determination must be documented in the patient's medical record. If a patient is younger than 18 years of age, a second physician must concur with this determination, and such concurrence must be documented in the patient's medical record.

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4. Determined whether the patient is pregnant and documented such determination in the patient's medical record. A physician may not issue a physician certification, except for low-THC cannabis, to a patient who is pregnant.

5. Reviewed the patient's controlled drug prescription history in the prescription drug monitoring program database established pursuant to s. 893.055.

6. Reviews the medical marijuana use registry and confirmed that the patient does not have an active physician certification from another qualified physician.

7. Registers as the issuer of the physician certification for the named qualified patient on the medical marijuana use registry in an electronic manner determined by the department, and:

a. Enters into the registry the contents of the physician certification, including the patient's qualifying condition and the dosage not to exceed the daily dose amount determined by the department, the amount and forms of marijuana authorized for the patient, and any types of marijuana delivery devices needed by the patient for the medical use of marijuana.

b. Updates the registry within 7 days after any change is made to the original physician certification to reflect such change.

c. Deactivates the registration of the qualified patient and the patient's caregiver when the physician no longer recommends the medical use of marijuana for the patient.

8. Obtains the voluntary and informed written consent of the patient for medical use of marijuana each time the qualified physician issues a physician certification for the patient, which shall be maintained in the patient's medical record. The patient, or the patient's parent or legal guardian if the patient is a minor, must sign the informed consent acknowledging that the qualified physician has sufficiently explained its content. The qualified physician must use a standardized informed consent form adopted in rule by the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, which must include, at a minimum, information related to:

a. The Federal Government's classification of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance.

b. The approval and oversight status of marijuana by the Food and Drug Administration.

c. The current state of research on the efficacy of marijuana to treat the qualifying conditions set forth in this section.

d. The potential for addiction.

e. The potential effect that marijuana may have on a patient's coordination, motor skills, and cognition, including a warning against operating heavy machinery, operating a motor vehicle, or engaging in activities that require a person to be alert or respond quickly.

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f. The potential side effects of marijuana use.

g. The risks, benefits, and drug interactions of marijuana.

h. That the patient's de-identified health information contained in the physician certification and medical marijuana use registry may be used for research purposes.

(b) If a qualified physician issues a physician certification for a qualified patient diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition pursuant to paragraph (2)(k), the physician must submit the following to the applicable board within 14 days after issuing the physician certification:

1. Documentation supporting the qualified physician's opinion that the medical condition is of the same kind or class as the conditions in paragraphs (2)(a)-(j).

2. Documentation that establishes the efficacy of marijuana as treatment for the condition.

3. Documentation supporting the qualified physician's opinion that the benefits of medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient.

4. Any other documentation as required by board rule.

The department must submit such documentation to the Coalition for Medical Marijuana Research and Education established pursuant to s. 1004.4351.

(c) A qualified physician may not issue a physician certification for more than three 70-day supply limits of marijuana. The department shall quantify by rule a daily dose amount with equivalent dose amounts for each allowable form of marijuana dispensed by a medical marijuana treatment center. The department shall use the daily dose amount to calculate a 70-day supply.

1. A qualified physician may request an exception to the daily dose amount limit. The request shall be made electronically on a form adopted by the department in rule and must include, at a minimum:

a. The qualified patient's qualifying medical condition.

b. The dosage and route of administration that was insufficient to provide relief to the qualified patient.

c. A description of how the patient will benefit from an increased amount.

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d. The minimum daily dose amount of marijuana that would be sufficient for the treatment of the qualified patient's qualifying medical condition.

2. A qualified physician must provide the qualified patient's records upon the request of the department.

3. The department shall approve or disapprove the request within 14 days after receipt of the complete documentation required by this paragraph. The request shall be deemed approved if the department fails to act within this time period.

(d) A qualified physician must evaluate an existing qualified patient at least once every 30 weeks before issuing a new physician certification. A physician must:

1. Determine if the patient still meets the requirements to be issued a physician certification under paragraph (a).

2. Identify and document in the qualified patient's medical records whether the qualified patient experienced either of the following related to the medical use of marijuana:

a. An adverse drug interaction with any prescription or nonprescription medication; or

b. A reduction in the use of, or dependence on, other types of controlled substances as defined in s. 893.02.

3. Submit a report with the findings required pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the department. The department shall submit such reports to the Coalition for Medical Marijuana Research and Education established pursuant to s. 1004.4351.

(e) An active order for low-THC cannabis or medical cannabis issued pursuant to former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2016, and registered with the compassionate use registry before June 23, 2017, is deemed a physician certification, and all patients possessing such orders are deemed qualified patients until the department begins issuing medical marijuana use registry identification cards.

(f) The department shall monitor physician registration in the medical marijuana use registry and the issuance of physician certifications for practices that could facilitate unlawful diversion or misuse of marijuana or a marijuana delivery device and shall take disciplinary action as appropriate.

(g) The Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine shall jointly create a physician certification pattern review panel that shall review all physician certifications submitted to the medical marijuana use registry. The panel shall track and report the number of physician certifications and the qualifying medical conditions, dosage, supply amount, and form of marijuana certified. The panel shall report the data both by individual qualified physician and in the aggregate, by county, and statewide. The physician certification pattern review panel shall, beginning January 1, 2018, submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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(h) The department, the Board of Medicine, and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection.

(5) Medical marijuana use registry.--

(a) The department shall create and maintain a secure, electronic, and online medical marijuana use registry for physicians, patients, and caregivers as provided under this section. The medical marijuana use registry must be accessible to law enforcement agencies, qualified physicians, and medical marijuana treatment centers to verify the authorization of a qualified patient or a caregiver to possess marijuana or a marijuana delivery device and record the marijuana or marijuana delivery device dispensed. The medical marijuana use registry must also be accessible to practitioners licensed to prescribe prescription drugs to ensure proper care for patients before medications that may interact with the medical use of marijuana are prescribed. The medical marijuana use registry must prevent an active registration of a qualified patient by multiple physicians.

(b) The department shall determine whether an individual is a resident of this state for the purpose of registration of qualified patients and caregivers in the medical marijuana use registry. To prove residency:

1. An adult resident must provide the department with a copy of his or her valid Florida driver license issued under s. 322.18 or a copy of a valid Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051.

2. An adult seasonal resident who cannot meet the requirements of subparagraph 1. may provide the department with a copy of two of the following that show proof of residential address:

a. A deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, mortgage payment booklet or residential rental or lease agreement.

b. One proof of residential address from the seasonal resident's parent, step-parent, legal guardian or other person with whom the seasonal resident resides and a statement from the person with whom the seasonal resident resides stating that the seasonal resident does reside with him or her.

c. A utility hookup or work order dated within 60 days before registration in the medical use registry.

d. A utility bill, not more than 2 months old.

e. Mail from a financial institution, including checking, savings, or investment account statements, not more than 2 months old.

f. Mail from a federal, state, county, or municipal government agency, not more than 2 months old.

g. Any other documentation that provides proof of residential address as determined by department rule.

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3. A minor must provide the department with a certified copy of a birth certificate or a current record of registration from a Florida K-12 school and must have a parent or legal guardian who meets the requirements of subparagraph 1.

For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “seasonal resident” means any person who temporarily resides in this state for a period of at least 31 consecutive days in each calendar year, maintains a temporary residence in this state, returns to the state or jurisdiction of his or her residence at least one time during each calendar year, and is registered to vote or pays income tax in another state or jurisdiction.

(c) The department may suspend or revoke the registration of a qualified patient or caregiver if the qualified patient or caregiver:

1. Provides misleading, incorrect, false, or fraudulent information to the department;

2. Obtains a supply of marijuana in an amount greater than the amount authorized by the physician certification;

3. Falsifies, alters, or otherwise modifies an identification card;

4. Fails to timely notify the department of any changes to his or her qualified patient status; or

5. Violates the requirements of this section or any rule adopted under this section.

(d) The department shall immediately suspend the registration of a qualified patient charged with a violation of chapter 893 until final disposition of any alleged offense. Thereafter, the department may extend the suspension, revoke the registration, or reinstate the registration.

(e) The department shall immediately suspend the registration of any caregiver charged with a violation of chapter 893 until final disposition of any alleged offense. The department shall revoke a caregiver registration if the caregiver does not meet the requirements of subparagraph (6)(b)6.

(f) The department may revoke the registration of a qualified patient or caregiver who cultivates marijuana or who acquires, possesses, or delivers marijuana from any person or entity other than a medical marijuana treatment center.

(g) The department shall revoke the registration of a qualified patient, and the patient's associated caregiver, upon notification that the patient no longer meets the criteria of a qualified patient.

(h) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection.

(6) Caregivers.--

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(a) The department must register an individual as a caregiver on the medical marijuana use registry and issue a caregiver identification card if an individual designated by a qualified patient meets all of the requirements of this subsection and department rule.

(b) A caregiver must:

1. Not be a qualified physician and not be employed by or have an economic interest in a medical marijuana treatment center or a marijuana testing laboratory.

2. Be 21 years of age or older and a resident of this state.

3. Agree in writing to assist with the qualified patient's medical use of marijuana.

4. Be registered in the medical marijuana use registry as a caregiver for no more than one qualified patient, except as provided in this paragraph.

5. Successfully complete a caregiver certification course developed and administered by the department or its designee, which must be renewed biennially. The price of the course may not exceed $100.

6. Pass a background screening pursuant to subsection (9), unless the patient is a close relative of the caregiver.

(c) A qualified patient may designate no more than one caregiver to assist with the qualified patient's medical use of marijuana, unless:

1. The qualified patient is a minor and the designated caregivers are parents or legal guardians of the qualified patient;

2. The qualified patient is an adult who has an intellectual or developmental disability that prevents the patient from being able to protect or care for himself or herself without assistance or supervision and the designated caregivers are the parents or legal guardians of the qualified patient; or

3. The qualified patient is admitted to a hospice program.

(d) A caregiver may be registered in the medical marijuana use registry as a designated caregiver for no more than one qualified patient, unless:

1. The caregiver is a parent or legal guardian of more than one minor who is a qualified patient;

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2. The caregiver is a parent or legal guardian of more than one adult who is a qualified patient and who has an intellectual or developmental disability that prevents the patient from being able to protect or care for himself or herself without assistance or supervision; or

3. All qualified patients the caregiver has agreed to assist are admitted to a hospice program and have requested the assistance of that caregiver with the medical use of marijuana; the caregiver is an employee of the hospice; and the caregiver provides personal care or other services directly to clients of the hospice in the scope of that employment.

(e) A caregiver may not receive compensation, other than actual expenses incurred, for any services provided to the qualified patient.

(f) If a qualified patient is younger than 18 years of age, only a caregiver may purchase or administer marijuana for medical use by the qualified patient. The qualified patient may not purchase marijuana.

(g) A caregiver must be in immediate possession of his or her medical marijuana use registry identification card at all times when in possession of marijuana or a marijuana delivery device and must present his or her medical marijuana use registry identification card upon the request of a law enforcement officer.

(h) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection.

(7) Identification cards.--

(a) The department shall issue medical marijuana use registry identification cards for qualified patients and caregivers who are residents of this state, which must be renewed annually. The identification cards must be resistant to counterfeiting and tampering and must include, at a minimum, the following:

1. The name, address, and date of birth of the qualified patient or caregiver.

2. A full-face, passport-type, color photograph of the qualified patient or caregiver taken within the 90 days immediately preceding registration or the Florida driver license or Florida identification card photograph of the qualified patient or caregiver obtained directly from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

3. Identification as a qualified patient or a caregiver.

4. The unique numeric identifier used for the qualified patient in the medical marijuana use registry.

5. For a caregiver, the name and unique numeric identifier of the caregiver and the qualified patient or patients that the caregiver is assisting.

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6. The expiration date of the identification card.

(b) The department must receive written consent from a qualified patient's parent or legal guardian before it may issue an identification card to a qualified patient who is a minor.

(c) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 establishing procedures for the issuance, renewal, suspension, replacement, surrender, and revocation of medical marijuana use registry identification cards pursuant to this section and shall begin issuing qualified patient identification cards by October 3, 2017.

(d) Applications for identification cards must be submitted on a form prescribed by the department. The department may charge a reasonable fee associated with the issuance, replacement, and renewal of identification cards. The department shall allocate $10 of the identification card fee to the Division of Research at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University for the purpose of educating minorities about marijuana for medical use and the impact of the unlawful use of marijuana on minority communities. The department shall contract with a third-party vendor to issue identification cards. The vendor selected by the department must have experience performing similar functions for other state agencies.

(e) A qualified patient or caregiver shall return his or her identification card to the department within 5 business days after revocation.

(8) Medical marijuana treatment centers.--

(a) The department shall license medical marijuana treatment centers to ensure reasonable statewide accessibility and availability as necessary for qualified patients registered in the medical marijuana use registry and who are issued a physician certification under this section.

1. As soon as practicable, but no later than July 3, 2017, the department shall license as a medical marijuana treatment center any entity that holds an active, unrestricted license to cultivate, process, transport, and dispense low-THC cannabis, medical cannabis, and cannabis delivery devices, under former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2016, before July 1, 2017, and which meets the requirements of this section. In addition to the authority granted under this section, these entities are authorized to dispense low-THC cannabis, medical cannabis, and cannabis delivery devices ordered pursuant to former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2016, which were entered into the compassionate use registry before July 1, 2017, and are authorized to begin dispensing marijuana under this section on July 3, 2017. The department may grant variances from the representations made in such an entity's original application for approval under former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2014, pursuant to paragraph (e).

2. The department shall license as medical marijuana treatment centers 10 applicants that meet the requirements of this section, under the following parameters:

a. As soon as practicable, but no later than August 1, 2017, the department shall license any applicant whose application was reviewed, evaluated, and scored by the department and which was denied a dispensing organization license by the department under former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2014; which had one or more administrative or judicial challenges pending as of January 1, 2017, or had a final ranking within one point of the highest final ranking in its region under

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former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2014; which meets the requirements of this section; and which provides documentation to the department that it has the existing infrastructure and technical and technological ability to begin cultivating marijuana within 30 days after registration as a medical marijuana treatment center.

b. As soon as practicable, but no later than October 3, 2017, the department shall license one applicant that is a recognized class member of *Pigford v. Glickman*, 185 F.R.D. 82 (D.D.C. 1999), or *In Re Black Farmers Litig.*, 856 F. Supp. 2d 1 (D.D.C. 2011) and is a member of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association-Florida Chapter. An applicant licensed under this sub-subparagraph is exempt from the requirements of subparagraphs (b)1. and 2.

c. As soon as practicable, but no later than October 3, 2017, the department shall license applicants that meet the requirements of this section in sufficient numbers to result in 10 total licenses issued under this subparagraph, while accounting for the number of licenses issued under sub-subparagraphs a. and b.

3. For up to two of the licenses issued under subparagraph 2., the department shall give preference to applicants that demonstrate in their applications that they own one or more facilities that are, or were, used for the canning, concentrating, or otherwise processing of citrus fruit or citrus molasses and will use or convert the facility or facilities for the processing of marijuana.

4. Within 6 months after the registration of 100,000 active qualified patients in the medical marijuana use registry, the department shall license four additional medical marijuana treatment centers that meet the requirements of this section. Thereafter, the department shall license four medical marijuana treatment centers within 6 months after the registration of each additional 100,000 active qualified patients in the medical marijuana use registry that meet the requirements of this section.

5. Dispensing facilities are subject to the following requirements:

a. A medical marijuana treatment center may not establish or operate more than a statewide maximum of 25 dispensing facilities, unless the medical marijuana use registry reaches a total of 100,000 active registered qualified patients. When the medical marijuana use registry reaches 100,000 active registered qualified patients, and then upon each further instance of the total active registered qualified patients increasing by 100,000, the statewide maximum number of dispensing facilities that each licensed medical marijuana treatment center may establish and operate increases by five.

b. A medical marijuana treatment center may not establish more than the maximum number of dispensing facilities allowed in each of the Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast Regions. The department shall determine a medical marijuana treatment center's maximum number of dispensing facilities allowed in each region by calculating the percentage of the total statewide population contained within that region and multiplying that percentage by the medical marijuana treatment center's statewide maximum number of dispensing facilities established under sub-subparagraph a., rounded to the nearest whole number. The department shall ensure that such rounding does not cause a medical marijuana treatment center's total number of statewide dispensing facilities to exceed its statewide maximum. The department shall initially calculate the maximum number of dispensing facilities allowed in each region for each medical marijuana treatment center using county population estimates from the Florida Estimates of Population 2016, as published by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and shall perform recalculations following the official release of county population data resulting from each United States Decennial Census. For the purposes of this subparagraph:

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(I) The Northwest Region consists of Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties.

(II) The Northeast Region consists of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union Counties.

(III) The Central Region consists of Brevard, Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Indian River, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia Counties.

(IV) The Southwest Region consists of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, and Sarasota Counties.

(V) The Southeast Region consists of Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties.

c. If a medical marijuana treatment center establishes a number of dispensing facilities within a region that is less than the number allowed for that region under sub-subparagraph b., the medical marijuana treatment center may sell one or more of its unused dispensing facility slots to other licensed medical marijuana treatment centers. For each dispensing facility slot that a medical marijuana treatment center sells, that medical marijuana treatment center's statewide maximum number of dispensing facilities, as determined under sub-subparagraph a., is reduced by one. The statewide maximum number of dispensing facilities for a medical marijuana treatment center that purchases an unused dispensing facility slot is increased by one per slot purchased. Additionally, the sale of a dispensing facility slot shall reduce the seller's regional maximum and increase the purchaser's regional maximum number of dispensing facilities, as determined in sub-subparagraph b., by one for that region. For any slot purchased under this sub-subparagraph, the regional restriction applied to that slot's location under sub-subparagraph b. before the purchase shall remain in effect following the purchase. A medical marijuana treatment center that sells or purchases a dispensing facility slot must notify the department within 3 days of sale.

d. This subparagraph shall expire on April 1, 2020.

If this subparagraph or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this subparagraph are severable.

(b) An applicant for licensure as a medical marijuana treatment center shall apply to the department on a form prescribed by the department and adopted in rule. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 establishing a procedure for the issuance and biennial renewal of licenses, including initial application and biennial renewal fees sufficient to cover the costs of implementing and administering this section, and establishing supplemental licensure fees for payment beginning May 1, 2018, sufficient to cover the costs of administering ss. 381.989 and 1004.4351. The department shall identify applicants with strong diversity plans reflecting this state's commitment to diversity and implement training programs and other educational programs to enable minority persons and minority business enterprises, as defined in s. 288.703, and veteran business enterprises, as defined in s. 295.187, to compete for medical marijuana treatment center licensure and contracts. Subject to the requirements in subparagraphs (a)2.-4., the

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department shall issue a license to an applicant if the applicant meets the requirements of this section and pays the initial application fee. The department shall renew the licensure of a medical marijuana treatment center biennially if the licensee meets the requirements of this section and pays the biennial renewal fee. An individual may not be an applicant, owner, officer, board member, or manager on more than one application for licensure as a medical marijuana treatment center. An individual or entity may not be awarded more than one license as a medical marijuana treatment center. An applicant for licensure as a medical marijuana treatment center must demonstrate:

1. That, for the 5 consecutive years before submitting the application, the applicant has been registered to do business in the state.

2. Possession of a valid certificate of registration issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s. 581.131.

3. The technical and technological ability to cultivate and produce marijuana, including, but not limited to, low-THC cannabis.

4. The ability to secure the premises, resources, and personnel necessary to operate as a medical marijuana treatment center.

5. The ability to maintain accountability of all raw materials, finished products, and any byproducts to prevent diversion or unlawful access to or possession of these substances.

6. An infrastructure reasonably located to dispense marijuana to registered qualified patients statewide or regionally as determined by the department.

7. The financial ability to maintain operations for the duration of the 2-year approval cycle, including the provision of certified financial statements to the department.

a. Upon approval, the applicant must post a $5 million performance bond issued by an authorized surety insurance company rated in one of the three highest rating categories by a nationally recognized rating service. However, a medical marijuana treatment center serving at least 1,000 qualified patients is only required to maintain a $2 million performance bond.

b. In lieu of the performance bond required under sub-subparagraph a., the applicant may provide an irrevocable letter of credit payable to the department or provide cash to the department. If provided with cash under this sub-subparagraph, the department shall deposit the cash in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Health, subject to the same conditions as the bond regarding requirements for the applicant to forfeit ownership of the funds. If the funds deposited under this sub-subparagraph generate interest, the amount of that interest shall be used by the department for the administration of this section.

8. That all owners, officers, board members, and managers have passed a background screening pursuant to subsection (9).

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9. The employment of a medical director to supervise the activities of the medical marijuana treatment center.

10. A diversity plan that promotes and ensures the involvement of minority persons and minority business enterprises, as defined in s. 288.703, or veteran business enterprises, as defined in s. 295.187, in ownership, management, and employment. An applicant for licensure renewal must show the effectiveness of the diversity plan by including the following with his or her application for renewal:

a. Representation of minority persons and veterans in the medical marijuana treatment center's workforce;

b. Efforts to recruit minority persons and veterans for employment; and

c. A record of contracts for services with minority business enterprises and veteran business enterprises.

(c) A medical marijuana treatment center may not make a wholesale purchase of marijuana from, or a distribution of marijuana to, another medical marijuana treatment center, unless the medical marijuana treatment center seeking to make a wholesale purchase of marijuana submits proof of harvest failure to the department.

(d) The department shall establish, maintain, and control a computer software tracking system that traces marijuana from seed to sale and allows real-time, 24-hour access by the department to data from all medical marijuana treatment centers and marijuana testing laboratories. The tracking system must allow for integration of other seed-to-sale systems and, at a minimum, include notification of when marijuana seeds are planted, when marijuana plants are harvested and destroyed, and when marijuana is transported, sold, stolen, diverted, or lost. Each medical marijuana treatment center shall use the seed-to-sale tracking system established by the department or integrate its own seed-to-sale tracking system with the seed-to-sale tracking system established by the department. Each medical marijuana treatment center may use its own seed-to-sale system until the department establishes a seed-to-sale tracking system. The department may contract with a vendor to establish the seed-to-sale tracking system. The vendor selected by the department may not have a contractual relationship with the department to perform any services pursuant to this section other than the seed-to-sale tracking system. The vendor may not have a direct or indirect financial interest in a medical marijuana treatment center or a marijuana testing laboratory.

(e) A licensed medical marijuana treatment center shall cultivate, process, transport, and dispense marijuana for medical use. A licensed medical marijuana treatment center may not contract for services directly related to the cultivation, processing, and dispensing of marijuana or marijuana delivery devices, except that a medical marijuana treatment center licensed pursuant to subparagraph (a)1. may contract with a single entity for the cultivation, processing, transporting, and dispensing of marijuana and marijuana delivery devices. A licensed medical marijuana treatment center must, at all times, maintain compliance with the criteria demonstrated and representations made in the initial application and the criteria established in this subsection. Upon request, the department may grant a medical marijuana treatment center a variance from the representations made in the initial application. Consideration of such a request shall be based upon the individual facts and circumstances surrounding the request. A variance may not be granted unless the requesting medical marijuana treatment center can demonstrate to the department that it has a proposed alternative to the specific representation made in its application which fulfills the same or a similar purpose as the specific representation in a

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way that the department can reasonably determine will not be a lower standard than the specific representation in the application. A variance may not be granted from the requirements in subparagraph 2. and subparagraphs (b)1. and 2.

1. A licensed medical marijuana treatment center may transfer ownership to an individual or entity who meets the requirements of this section. A publicly traded corporation or publicly traded company that meets the requirements of this section is not precluded from ownership of a medical marijuana treatment center. To accommodate a change in ownership:

a. The licensed medical marijuana treatment center shall notify the department in writing at least 60 days before the anticipated date of the change of ownership.

b. The individual or entity applying for initial licensure due to a change of ownership must submit an application that must be received by the department at least 60 days before the date of change of ownership.

c. Upon receipt of an application for a license, the department shall examine the application and, within 30 days after receipt, notify the applicant in writing of any apparent errors or omissions and request any additional information required.

d. Requested information omitted from an application for licensure must be filed with the department within 21 days after the department's request for omitted information or the application shall be deemed incomplete and shall be withdrawn from further consideration and the fees shall be forfeited.

Within 30 days after the receipt of a complete application, the department shall approve or deny the application.

2. A medical marijuana treatment center, and any individual or entity who directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds with power to vote 5 percent or more of the voting shares of a medical marijuana treatment center, may not acquire direct or indirect ownership or control of any voting shares or other form of ownership of any other medical marijuana treatment center.

3. A medical marijuana treatment center may not enter into any form of profit-sharing arrangement with the property owner or lessor of any of its facilities where cultivation, processing, storing, or dispensing of marijuana and marijuana delivery devices occurs.

4. All employees of a medical marijuana treatment center must be 21 years of age or older and have passed a background screening pursuant to subsection (9).

5. Each medical marijuana treatment center must adopt and enforce policies and procedures to ensure employees and volunteers receive training on the legal requirements to dispense marijuana to qualified patients.

6. When growing marijuana, a medical marijuana treatment center:

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a. May use pesticides determined by the department, after consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to be safely applied to plants intended for human consumption, but may not use pesticides designated as restricted-use pesticides pursuant to s. 487.042.

b. Must grow marijuana within an enclosed structure and in a room separate from any other plant.

c. Must inspect seeds and growing plants for plant pests that endanger or threaten the horticultural and agricultural interests of the state in accordance with chapter 581 and any rules adopted thereunder.

d. Must perform fumigation or treatment of plants, or remove and destroy infested or infected plants, in accordance with chapter 581 and any rules adopted thereunder.

7. Each medical marijuana treatment center must produce and make available for purchase at least one low-THC cannabis product.

8. A medical marijuana treatment center that produces edibles must hold a permit to operate as a food establishment pursuant to chapter 500, the Florida Food Safety Act, and must comply with all the requirements for food establishments pursuant to chapter 500 and any rules adopted thereunder. Edibles may not contain more than 200 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol, and a single serving portion of an edible may not exceed 10 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol. Edibles may have a potency variance of no greater than 15 percent. Edibles may not be attractive to children; be manufactured in the shape of humans, cartoons, or animals; be manufactured in a form that bears any reasonable resemblance to products available for consumption as commercially available candy; or contain any color additives. To discourage consumption of edibles by children, the department shall determine by rule any shapes, forms, and ingredients allowed and prohibited for edibles. Medical marijuana treatment centers may not begin processing or dispensing edibles until after the effective date of the rule. The department shall also adopt sanitation rules providing the standards and requirements for the storage, display, or dispensing of edibles.

9. Within 12 months after licensure, a medical marijuana treatment center must demonstrate to the department that all of its processing facilities have passed a Food Safety Good Manufacturing Practices, such as Global Food Safety Initiative or equivalent, inspection by a nationally accredited certifying body. A medical marijuana treatment center must immediately stop processing at any facility which fails to pass this inspection until it demonstrates to the department that such facility has met this requirement.

10. When processing marijuana, a medical marijuana treatment center must:

a. Process the marijuana within an enclosed structure and in a room separate from other plants or products.

b. Comply with department rules when processing marijuana with hydrocarbon solvents or other solvents or gases exhibiting potential toxicity to humans. The department shall determine by rule the requirements for medical marijuana treatment centers to use such solvents or gases exhibiting potential toxicity to humans.

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c. Comply with federal and state laws and regulations and department rules for solid and liquid wastes. The department shall determine by rule procedures for the storage, handling, transportation, management, and disposal of solid and liquid waste generated during marijuana production and processing. The Department of Environmental Protection shall assist the department in developing such rules.

d. Test the processed marijuana using a medical marijuana testing laboratory before it is dispensed. Results must be verified and signed by two medical marijuana treatment center employees. Before dispensing, the medical marijuana treatment center must determine that the test results indicate that low-THC cannabis meets the definition of low-THC cannabis, the concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol meets the potency requirements of this section, the labeling of the concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol is accurate, and all marijuana is safe for human consumption and free from contaminants that are unsafe for human consumption. The department shall determine by rule which contaminants must be tested for and the maximum levels of each contaminant which are safe for human consumption. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall assist the department in developing the testing requirements for contaminants that are unsafe for human consumption in edibles. The department shall also determine by rule the procedures for the treatment of marijuana that fails to meet the testing requirements of this section, s. 381.988, or department rule. The department may select a random sample from edibles available for purchase in a dispensing facility which shall be tested by the department to determine that the edible meets the potency requirements of this section, is safe for human consumption, and the labeling of the tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol concentration is accurate. A medical marijuana treatment center may not require payment from the department for the sample. A medical marijuana treatment center must recall edibles, including all edibles made from the same batch of marijuana, which fail to meet the potency requirements of this section, which are unsafe for human consumption, or for which the labeling of the tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol concentration is inaccurate. The medical marijuana treatment center must retain records of all testing and samples of each homogenous batch of marijuana for at least 9 months. The medical marijuana treatment center must contract with a marijuana testing laboratory to perform audits on the medical marijuana treatment center's standard operating procedures, testing records, and samples and provide the results to the department to confirm that the marijuana or low-THC cannabis meets the requirements of this section and that the marijuana or low-THC cannabis is safe for human consumption. A medical marijuana treatment center shall reserve two processed samples from each batch and retain such samples for at least 9 months for the purpose of such audits. A medical marijuana treatment center may use a laboratory that has not been certified by the department under s. 381.988 until such time as at least one laboratory holds the required certification, but in no event later than July 1, 2018.

e. Package the marijuana in compliance with the United States Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1471 et seq.

f. Package the marijuana in a receptacle that has a firmly affixed and legible label stating the following information:

(I) The marijuana or low-THC cannabis meets the requirements of sub-subparagraph d.

(II) The name of the medical marijuana treatment center from which the marijuana originates.

(III) The batch number and harvest number from which the marijuana originates and the date dispensed.

(IV) The name of the physician who issued the physician certification.

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(V) The name of the patient.

(VI) The product name, if applicable, and dosage form, including concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol. The product name may not contain wording commonly associated with products marketed by or to children.

(VII) The recommended dose.

(VIII) A warning that it is illegal to transfer medical marijuana to another person.

(IX) A marijuana universal symbol developed by the department.

11. The medical marijuana treatment center shall include in each package a patient package insert with information on the specific product dispensed related to:

a. Clinical pharmacology.

b. Indications and use.

c. Dosage and administration.

d. Dosage forms and strengths.

e. Contraindications.

f. Warnings and precautions.

g. Adverse reactions.

12. Each edible shall be individually sealed in plain, opaque wrapping marked only with the marijuana universal symbol. Where practical, each edible shall be marked with the marijuana universal symbol. In addition to the packaging and labeling requirements in subparagraphs 10. and 11., edible receptacles must be plain, opaque, and white without depictions of the product or images other than the medical marijuana treatment center's department-approved logo and the marijuana universal symbol. The receptacle must also include a list all of the edible's ingredients, storage instructions, an expiration date, a legible and prominent warning to keep away from children and pets, and a warning that the edible has not been produced or inspected pursuant to federal food safety laws.

13. When dispensing marijuana or a marijuana delivery device, a medical marijuana treatment center:

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a. May dispense any active, valid order for low-THC cannabis, medical cannabis and cannabis delivery devices issued pursuant to former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2016, which was entered into the medical marijuana use registry before July 1, 2017.

b. May not dispense more than a 70-day supply of marijuana to a qualified patient or caregiver.

c. Must have the medical marijuana treatment center's employee who dispenses the marijuana or a marijuana delivery device enter into the medical marijuana use registry his or her name or unique employee identifier.

d. Must verify that the qualified patient and the caregiver, if applicable, each have an active registration in the medical marijuana use registry and an active and valid medical marijuana use registry identification card, the amount and type of marijuana dispensed matches the physician certification in the medical marijuana use registry for that qualified patient, and the physician certification has not already been filled.

e. May not dispense marijuana to a qualified patient who is younger than 18 years of age. If the qualified patient is younger than 18 years of age, marijuana may only be dispensed to the qualified patient's caregiver.

f. May not dispense or sell any other type of cannabis, alcohol, or illicit drug-related product, including pipes, bongs, or wrapping papers, other than a marijuana delivery device required for the medical use of marijuana and which is specified in a physician certification.

g. Must, upon dispensing the marijuana or marijuana delivery device, record in the registry the date, time, quantity, and form of marijuana dispensed; the type of marijuana delivery device dispensed; and the name and medical marijuana use registry identification number of the qualified patient or caregiver to whom the marijuana delivery device was dispensed.

h. Must ensure that patient records are not visible to anyone other than the qualified patient, his or her caregiver, and authorized medical marijuana treatment center employees.

(f) To ensure the safety and security of premises where the cultivation, processing, storing, or dispensing of marijuana occurs, and to maintain adequate controls against the diversion, theft, and loss of marijuana or marijuana delivery devices, a medical marijuana treatment center shall:

1. a. Maintain a fully operational security alarm system that secures all entry points and perimeter windows and is equipped with motion detectors; pressure switches; and duress, panic, and hold-up alarms; and

b. Maintain a video surveillance system that records continuously 24 hours a day and meets the following criteria:

(I) Cameras are fixed in a place that allows for the clear identification of persons and activities in controlled areas of the premises. Controlled areas include grow rooms, processing rooms, storage rooms, disposal rooms or areas, and point-of-sale rooms.

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(II) Cameras are fixed in entrances and exits to the premises, which shall record from both indoor and outdoor, or ingress and egress, vantage points.

(III) Recorded images must clearly and accurately display the time and date.

(IV) Retain video surveillance recordings for at least 45 days or longer upon the request of a law enforcement agency.

2. Ensure that the medical marijuana treatment center's outdoor premises have sufficient lighting from dusk until dawn.

3. Ensure that the indoor premises where dispensing occurs includes a waiting area with sufficient space and seating to accommodate qualified patients and caregivers and at least one private consultation area that is isolated from the waiting area and area where dispensing occurs. A medical marijuana treatment center may not display products or dispense marijuana or marijuana delivery devices in the waiting area.

4. Not dispense from its premises marijuana or a marijuana delivery device between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., but may perform all other operations and deliver marijuana to qualified patients 24 hours a day.

5. Store marijuana in a secured, locked room or a vault.

6. Require at least two of its employees, or two employees of a security agency with whom it contracts, to be on the premises at all times where cultivation, processing, or storing of marijuana occurs.

7. Require each employee or contractor to wear a photo identification badge at all times while on the premises.

8. Require each visitor to wear a visitor pass at all times while on the premises.

9. Implement an alcohol and drug-free workplace policy.

10. Report to local law enforcement within 24 hours after the medical marijuana treatment center is notified or becomes aware of the theft, diversion, or loss of marijuana.

(g) To ensure the safe transport of marijuana and marijuana delivery devices to medical marijuana treatment centers, marijuana testing laboratories, or qualified patients, a medical marijuana treatment center must:

1. Maintain a marijuana transportation manifest in any vehicle transporting marijuana. The marijuana transportation manifest must be generated from a medical marijuana treatment center's seed-to-sale tracking system and include the:

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a. Departure date and approximate time of departure.

b. Name, location address, and license number of the originating medical marijuana treatment center.

c. Name and address of the recipient of the delivery.

d. Quantity and form of any marijuana or marijuana delivery device being transported.

e. Arrival date and estimated time of arrival.

f. Delivery vehicle make and model and license plate number.

g. Name and signature of the medical marijuana treatment center employees delivering the product.

(I) A copy of the marijuana transportation manifest must be provided to each individual, medical marijuana treatment center, or marijuana testing laboratory that receives a delivery. The individual, or a representative of the center or laboratory, must sign a copy of the marijuana transportation manifest acknowledging receipt.

(II) An individual transporting marijuana or a marijuana delivery device must present a copy of the relevant marijuana transportation manifest and his or her employee identification card to a law enforcement officer upon request.

(III) Medical marijuana treatment centers and marijuana testing laboratories must retain copies of all marijuana transportation manifests for at least 3 years.

2. Ensure only vehicles in good working order are used to transport marijuana.

3. Lock marijuana and marijuana delivery devices in a separate compartment or container within the vehicle.

4. Require employees to have possession of their employee identification card at all times when transporting marijuana or marijuana delivery devices.

5. Require at least two persons to be in a vehicle transporting marijuana or marijuana delivery devices, and require at least one person to remain in the vehicle while the marijuana or marijuana delivery device is being delivered.

6. Provide specific safety and security training to employees transporting or delivering marijuana and marijuana delivery devices.

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(h) A medical marijuana treatment center may not engage in advertising that is visible to members of the public from any street, sidewalk, park, or other public place, except:

1. The dispensing location of a medical marijuana treatment center may have a sign that is affixed to the outside or hanging in the window of the premises which identifies the dispensary by the licensee's business name, a department-approved trade name, or a department-approved logo. A medical marijuana treatment center's trade name and logo may not contain wording or images commonly associated with marketing targeted toward children or which promote recreational use of marijuana.

2. A medical marijuana treatment center may engage in Internet advertising and marketing under the following conditions:

a. All advertisements must be approved by the department.

b. An advertisement may not have any content that specifically targets individuals under the age of 18, including cartoon characters or similar images.

c. An advertisement may not be an unsolicited pop-up advertisement.

d. Opt-in marketing must include an easy and permanent opt-out feature.

(i) Each medical marijuana treatment center that dispenses marijuana and marijuana delivery devices shall make available to the public on its website:

1. Each marijuana and low-THC product available for purchase, including the form, strain of marijuana from which it was extracted, cannabidiol content, tetrahydrocannabinol content, dose unit, total number of doses available, and the ratio of cannabidiol to tetrahydrocannabinol for each product.

2. The price for a 30-day, 50-day, and 70-day supply at a standard dose for each marijuana and low-THC product available for purchase.

3. The price for each marijuana delivery device available for purchase.

4. If applicable, any discount policies and eligibility criteria for such discounts.

(j) Medical marijuana treatment centers are the sole source from which a qualified patient may legally obtain marijuana.

(k) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection.

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(9) Background screening.--An individual required to undergo a background screening pursuant to this section must pass a level 2 background screening as provided under chapter 435, which, in addition to the disqualifying offenses provided in s. 435.04, shall exclude an individual who has an arrest awaiting final disposition for, has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or has entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to an offense under chapter 837, chapter 895, or chapter 896 or similar law of another jurisdiction.

(a) Such individual must submit a full set of fingerprints to the department or to a vendor, entity, or agency authorized by s. 943.053(13). The department, vendor, entity, or agency shall forward the fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing.

(b) Fees for state and federal fingerprint processing and retention shall be borne by the individual. The state cost for fingerprint processing shall be as provided in s. 943.053(3)(e) for records provided to persons or entities other than those specified as exceptions therein.

(c) Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement pursuant to this subsection shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement as provided in s. 943.05(2)(g) and (h) and, when the Department of Law Enforcement begins participation in the program, enrolled in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national retained print arrest notification program. Any arrest record identified shall be reported to the department.

(10) Medical marijuana treatment center inspections; administrative actions.--

(a) The department shall conduct announced or unannounced inspections of medical marijuana treatment centers to determine compliance with this section or rules adopted pursuant to this section.

(b) The department shall inspect a medical marijuana treatment center upon receiving a complaint or notice that the medical marijuana treatment center has dispensed marijuana containing mold, bacteria, or other contaminant that may cause or has caused an adverse effect to human health or the environment.

(c) The department shall conduct at least a biennial inspection of each medical marijuana treatment center to evaluate the medical marijuana treatment center's records, personnel, equipment, processes, security measures, sanitation practices, and quality assurance practices.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the department shall enter into an interagency agreement to ensure cooperation and coordination in the performance of their obligations under this section and their respective regulatory and authorizing laws. The department, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Law Enforcement may enter into interagency agreements for the purposes specified in this subsection or subsection (7).

(e) The department shall publish a list of all approved medical marijuana treatment centers, medical directors, and qualified physicians on its website.

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(f) The department may impose reasonable fines not to exceed $10,000 on a medical marijuana treatment center for any of the following violations:

1. Violating this section or department rule.

2. Failing to maintain qualifications for approval.

3. Endangering the health, safety, or security of a qualified patient.

4. Improperly disclosing personal and confidential information of the qualified patient.

5. Attempting to procure medical marijuana treatment center approval by bribery, fraudulent misrepresentation, or extortion.

6. Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the business of a medical marijuana treatment center.

7. Making or filing a report or record that the medical marijuana treatment center knows to be false.

8. Willfully failing to maintain a record required by this section or department rule.

9. Willfully impeding or obstructing an employee or agent of the department in the furtherance of his or her official duties.

10. Engaging in fraud or deceit, negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the business practices of a medical marijuana treatment center.

11. Making misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representations in or related to the business practices of a medical marijuana treatment center.

12. Having a license or the authority to engage in any regulated profession, occupation, or business that is related to the business practices of a medical marijuana treatment center suspended, revoked, or otherwise acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction, including its agencies or subdivisions, for a violation that would constitute a violation under Florida law.

13. Violating a lawful order of the department or an agency of the state, or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the department or an agency of the state.

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(g) The department may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a medical marijuana treatment center license if the medical marijuana treatment center commits any of the violations in paragraph (f).

(h) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection.

(11) Preemption.--Regulation of cultivation, processing, and delivery of marijuana by medical marijuana treatment centers is preempted to the state except as provided in this subsection.

(a) A medical marijuana treatment center cultivating or processing facility may not be located within 500 feet of the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, or secondary school.

(b) 1. A county or municipality may, by ordinance, ban medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities from being located within the boundaries of that county or municipality. A county or municipality that does not ban dispensing facilities under this subparagraph may not place specific limits, by ordinance, on the number of dispensing facilities that may locate within that county or municipality.

2. A municipality may determine by ordinance the criteria for the location of, and other permitting requirements that do not conflict with state law or department rule for, medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities located within the boundaries of that municipality. A county may determine by ordinance the criteria for the location of, and other permitting requirements that do not conflict with state law or department rule for, all such dispensing facilities located within the unincorporated areas of that county. Except as provided in paragraph (c), a county or municipality may not enact ordinances for permitting or for determining the location of dispensing facilities which are more restrictive than its ordinances permitting or determining the locations for pharmacies licensed under chapter 465. A municipality or county may not charge a medical marijuana treatment center a license or permit fee in an amount greater than the fee charged by such municipality or county to pharmacies. A dispensing facility location approved by a municipality or county pursuant to former s. 381.986(8)(b), Florida Statutes 2016, is not subject to the location requirements of this subsection.

(c) A medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facility may not be located within 500 feet of the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, or secondary school unless the county or municipality approves the location through a formal proceeding open to the public at which the county or municipality determines that the location promotes the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

(d) This subsection does not prohibit any local jurisdiction from ensuring medical marijuana treatment center facilities comply with the Florida Building Code, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, or any local amendments to the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

(12) Penalties.--

(a) A qualified physician commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, if the qualified physician issues a physician certification for the medical use of marijuana for a patient without a reasonable belief that the patient is suffering from a qualifying medical condition.

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(b) A person who fraudulently represents that he or she has a qualifying medical condition to a qualified physician for the purpose of being issued a physician certification commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(c) A qualified patient who uses marijuana, not including low-THC cannabis, or a caregiver who administers marijuana, not including low-THC cannabis, in plain view of or in a place open to the general public; in a school bus, a vehicle, an aircraft, or a boat; or on the grounds of a school except as provided in s. 1006.062, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(d) A qualified patient or caregiver who cultivates marijuana or who purchases or acquires marijuana from any person or entity other than a medical marijuana treatment center violates s. 893.13 and is subject to the penalties provided therein.

(e) 1. A qualified patient or caregiver in possession of marijuana or a marijuana delivery device who fails or refuses to present his or her marijuana use registry identification card upon the request of a law enforcement officer commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, unless it can be determined through the medical marijuana use registry that the person is authorized to be in possession of that marijuana or marijuana delivery device.

2. A person charged with a violation of this paragraph may not be convicted if, before or at the time of his or her court or hearing appearance, the person produces in court or to the clerk of the court in which the charge is pending a medical marijuana use registry identification card issued to him or her which is valid at the time of his or her arrest. The clerk of the court is authorized to dismiss such case at any time before the defendant's appearance in court. The clerk of the court may assess a fee of $5 for dismissing the case under this paragraph.

(f) A caregiver who violates any of the applicable provisions of this section or applicable department rules, for the first offense, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, for a second or subsequent offense, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(g) A qualified physician who issues a physician certification for marijuana or a marijuana delivery device and receives compensation from a medical marijuana treatment center related to the issuance of a physician certification for marijuana or a marijuana delivery device is subject to disciplinary action under the applicable practice act and s. 456.072(1)(n).

(h) A person transporting marijuana or marijuana delivery devices on behalf of a medical marijuana treatment center or marijuana testing laboratory who fails or refuses to present a transportation manifest upon the request of a law enforcement officer commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(i) Persons and entities conducting activities authorized and governed by this section and s. 381.988 are subject to ss. 456.053, 456.054, and 817.505, as applicable.

(j) A person or entity that cultivates, processes, distributes, sells, or dispenses marijuana, as defined in s. 29(b)(4), Art. X of the State Constitution, and is not licensed as a medical marijuana treatment center violates s. 893.13 and is subject to the penalties provided therein.

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(k) A person who manufactures, distributes, sells, gives, or possesses with the intent to manufacture, distribute, sell, or give marijuana or a marijuana delivery device that he or she holds out to have originated from a licensed medical marijuana treatment center but that is counterfeit commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "counterfeit" means marijuana; a marijuana delivery device; or a marijuana or marijuana delivery device container, seal, or label which, without authorization, bears the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device, or any likeness thereof, of a licensed medical marijuana treatment center and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been distributed by, that licensed medical marijuana treatment facility.

(l) Any person who possesses or manufactures a blank, forged, stolen, fictitious, fraudulent, counterfeit, or otherwise unlawfully issued medical marijuana use registry identification card commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(13) Unlicensed activity.--

(a) If the department has probable cause to believe that a person or entity that is not registered or licensed with the department has violated this section, s. 381.988, or any rule adopted pursuant to this section, the department may issue and deliver to such person or entity a notice to cease and desist from such violation. The department also may issue and deliver a notice to cease and desist to any person or entity who aids and abets such unlicensed activity. The issuance of a notice to cease and desist does not constitute agency action for which a hearing under s. 120.569 or s. 120.57 may be sought. For the purpose of enforcing a cease and desist order, the department may file a proceeding in the name of the state seeking issuance of an injunction or a writ of mandamus against any person or entity who violates any provisions of such order.

(b) In addition to the remedies under paragraph (a), the department may impose by citation an administrative penalty not to exceed $5,000 per incident. The citation shall be issued to the subject and must contain the subject's name and any other information the department determines to be necessary to identify the subject, a brief factual statement, the sections of the law allegedly violated, and the penalty imposed. If the subject does not dispute the matter in the citation with the department within 30 days after the citation is served, the citation shall become a final order of the department. The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section. Each day that the unlicensed activity continues after issuance of a notice to cease and desist constitutes a separate violation. The department shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution in addition to the fine levied pursuant to the citation. Service of a citation may be made by personal service or by mail to the subject at the subject's last known address or place of practice. If the department is required to seek enforcement of the cease and desist or agency order, it shall be entitled to collect attorney fees and costs.

(c) In addition to or in lieu of any other administrative remedy, the department may seek the imposition of a civil penalty through the circuit court for any violation for which the department may issue a notice to cease and desist. The civil penalty shall be no less than $5,000 and no more than $10,000 for each offense. The court may also award to the prevailing party court costs and reasonable attorney fees and, in the event the department prevails, may also award reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution.

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(d) In addition to the other remedies provided in this section, the department or any state attorney may bring an action for an injunction to restrain any unlicensed activity or to enjoin the future operation or maintenance of the unlicensed activity or the performance of any service in violation of this section.

(e) The department must notify local law enforcement of such unlicensed activity for a determination of any criminal violation of chapter 893.

(14) Exceptions to other laws.--

(a) Notwithstanding s. 893.13, s. 893.135, s. 893.147, or any other provision of law, but subject to the requirements of this section, a qualified patient and the qualified patient's caregiver may purchase from a medical marijuana treatment center for the patient's medical use a marijuana delivery device and up to the amount of marijuana authorized in the physician certification, but may not possess more than a 70-day supply of marijuana at any given time and all marijuana purchased must remain in its original packaging.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 893.13, s. 893.135, s. 893.147, or any other provision of law, but subject to the requirements of this section, an approved medical marijuana treatment center and its owners, managers, and employees may manufacture, possess, sell, deliver, distribute, dispense, and lawfully dispose of marijuana or a marijuana delivery device as provided in this section, s. 381.988, and by department rule. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms “manufacture,” “possession,” “deliver,” “distribute,” and “dispense” have the same meanings as provided in s. 893.02.

(c) Notwithstanding s. 893.13, s. 893.135, s. 893.147, or any other provision of law, but subject to the requirements of this section, a certified marijuana testing laboratory, including an employee of a certified marijuana testing laboratory acting within the scope of his or her employment, may acquire, possess, test, transport, and lawfully dispose of marijuana as provided in this section, in s. 381.988, and by department rule.

(d) A licensed medical marijuana treatment center and its owners, managers, and employees are not subject to licensure or regulation under chapter 465 or chapter 499 for manufacturing, possessing, selling, delivering, distributing, dispensing, or lawfully disposing of marijuana or a marijuana delivery device, as provided in this section, in [1] s. 381.988, and by department rule.

(e) This subsection does not exempt a person from prosecution for a criminal offense related to impairment or intoxication resulting from the medical use of marijuana or relieve a person from any requirement under law to submit to a breath, blood, urine, or other test to detect the presence of a controlled substance.

(f) Notwithstanding s. 893.13, s. 893.135, s. 893.147, or any other provision of law, but subject to the requirements of this section and pursuant to policies and procedures established pursuant to s. 1006.62(8), school personnel may possess marijuana that is obtained for medical use pursuant to this section by a student who is a qualified patient.

(g) Notwithstanding s. 893.13, s. 893.135, s. 893.147, or any other provision of law, but subject to the requirements of this section, a research institute established by a public postsecondary educational institution, such as the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc., established under s. 1004.43, or a state university that has achieved the

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preeminent state research university designation under s. 1001.7065 may possess, test, transport, and lawfully dispose of marijuana for research purposes as provided by this section.

(15) Applicability.--This section does not limit the ability of an employer to establish, continue, or enforce a drug-free workplace program or policy. This section does not require an employer to accommodate the medical use of marijuana in any workplace or any employee working while under the influence of marijuana. This section does not create a cause of action against an employer for wrongful discharge or discrimination. Marijuana, as defined in this section, is not reimbursable under chapter 440.

(16) Fines and fees.--Fines and fees collected by the department under this section shall be deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Health.

Credits

Added by Laws 2014, c. 2014-157, § 2, eff. June 16, 2014. Amended by Laws 2016, c. 2016-123, § 1, eff. March 25, 2016; Laws 2016, c. 2016-145, § 24, eff. July 1, 2016; Laws 2017, c. 2017-232, §§ 1, 3, eff. June 23, 2017.

Editors' Notes

EXPIRATION

<Subsection (8)(a)5. expires by its own terms on April 1, 2020.>

<Laws 2017, c. 2017-232, § 1, provides:>

<"Legislative intent.--It is the intent of the Legislature to implement s. 29, Article X of the State Constitution by creating a unified regulatory structure. If s. 29, Article X of the State Constitution is amended or a constitutional amendment related to cannabis or marijuana is adopted, this act shall expire 6 months after the effective date of such amendment.">

Footnotes

1 The word "in" was inserted by the Division of Law Revision and Information.

West's F. S. A. § 381.986, FL ST § 381.986

Current through the 2017 First Regular Session and Special "A" Session of the 25th Legislature

End of Document

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