| 1 | TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: |
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| 2 | The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No. |
| 3 | 14 entitled "An act relating to single dose, child-resistant packaging and |
| 4 | labeling of marijuana-infused edible or potable products sold by a registered |
| 5 | dispensary" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and |
| 6 | recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as |
| 7 | follows: |
| 8 | <u>First</u> : By striking out Sec. 1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a |
| 9 | new Sec. 1 to read: |
| 10 | Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4472 is amended to read: |
| 11 | § 4472. DEFINITIONS |
| 12 | As used in this subchapter: |
| 13 | (1)(A) "Bona fide health care professional-patient relationship" means a |
| 14 | treating or consulting relationship of not less than six three months' duration, |
| 15 | in the course of which a health care professional has completed a full |
| 16 | assessment of the registered patient's medical history and current medical |
| 17 | condition, including a personal physical examination. |
| 18 | (B) The six-month three-month requirement shall not apply if: |
| 19 | (i) a patient has been diagnosed with: |
| 20 | (A)(I) a terminal illness; |
| 21 | (B)(II) cancer with distant metastases; or |

| 1 | (C)(III) acquired immune deficiency syndrome. |
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| 2 | (ii) a patient has been diagnosed with a debilitating medical |
| 3 | condition by a health care professional in another jurisdiction in which the |
| 4 | patient has been formerly a resident and the patient, now a resident of |
| 5 | Vermont, has the diagnosis confirmed by a health care professional in this |
| 6 | State or a neighboring state as provided in subdivision (6) of this section, and |
| 7 | the new health care professional has completed a full assessment of the |
| 8 | patient's medical history and current medical condition, including a personal |
| 9 | physical examination. |
| 10 | (iii) a patient who is already on the registry changes health care |
| 11 | professionals three months or less prior to the annual renewal of the patient's |
| 12 | registration, provided the patient's new health care professional has completed |
| 13 | a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical |
| 14 | condition, including a personal physical examination. |
| 15 | * * * |
| 16 | (4) "Debilitating medical condition," provided that, in the context of the |
| 17 | specific disease or condition described in subdivision (A) or (B) of this |
| 18 | subdivision (4), reasonable medical efforts have been made over a reasonable |
| 19 | amount of time without success to relieve the symptoms, means: |
| 20 | (A) cancer, multiple sclerosis, positive status for human |
| 21 | immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, glaucoma, or |

dispensary.

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| 1 | the treatment of these conditions, if the disease or the treatment results in |
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| 2 | severe, persistent, and intractable symptoms; or |
| 3 | (B) a disease, medical condition, or its treatment that is chronic, |
| 4 | debilitating, and produces severe, persistent, and one or more of the following |
| 5 | intractable symptoms: cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe chronic pain; |
| 6 | severe nausea; or seizures. |
| 7 | (5) "Dispensary" means a nonprofit entity business organization |
| 8 | registered under section 4474e of this title which acquires, possesses, |
| 9 | cultivates, manufactures, transfers, transports, supplies, sells, or dispenses |
| 10 | marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and |
| 11 | educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his |
| 12 | or her center and to his or her registered caregiver for the registered patient's |
| 13 | use for symptom relief. A dispensary may provide marijuana for symptom |
| 14 | relief to registered patients at only one facility or location but may have a |
| 15 | second location associated with the dispensary where the marijuana is |
| 16 | cultivated or processed. Both locations are considered to be part of the same |

(6) "Financier" means a person, other than a financial institution as defined in 8 V.S.A. § 11101, who makes an investment in, or a gift, loan, or other financing to, another person with the expectation of a financial return. If

| 1 | a financier is a business organization, as used in this chapter, the term |
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| 2 | "financier" includes each owner and principal of that organization. |
| 3 | (6)(7)(A) "Health care professional" means an individual licensed to |
| 4 | practice medicine under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an individual licensed as a |
| 5 | naturopathic physician under 26 V.S.A. chapter 81 who has a special license |
| 6 | endorsement authorizing the individual to prescribe, dispense, and administer |
| 7 | prescription medicines to the extent that a diagnosis provided by a naturopath |
| 8 | under this chapter is within the scope of his or her practice, an individual |
| 9 | certified as a physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an individual |
| 10 | licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28. |
| 11 | (B) Except for naturopaths, this This definition includes individuals |
| 12 | who are professionally licensed under substantially equivalent provisions in |
| 13 | New Hampshire, Massachusetts, or New York. |
| 14 | (7)(8) "Immature marijuana plant" means a female marijuana plant that |
| 15 | has not flowered and which does not have buds that may be observed by visual |
| 16 | examination. |
| 17 | (8)(9) "Marijuana" shall have the same meaning as provided in |
| 18 | subdivision 4201(15) of this title. |
| 19 | (9)(10) "Mature marijuana plant" means a female marijuana plant that |
| 20 | has flowered and which has buds that may be observed by visual examination. |

| 1 | (11) "Owner" means: |
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| 2 | (A) a person who has a direct or beneficial ownership interest of ten |
| 3 | percent or more in a business organization, including attribution of the |
| 4 | ownership interests of a spouse, parent, spouse's parent, sibling, and |
| 5 | children; or |
| 6 | (B) a person who has the power to direct, or cause the direction of, |
| 7 | the management and policies of a business organization, including through the |
| 8 | ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise. |
| 9 | (10)(12) "Possession limit" means the amount of marijuana collectively |
| 10 | possessed between the registered patient and the patient's registered caregiver |
| 11 | which is no more than two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, |
| 12 | and two ounces of usable marijuana. |
| 13 | (13) "Principal" means a person who has the authority to conduct, |
| 14 | manage, or supervise the operation of a business organization, and includes the |
| 15 | president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, manager, or similar executive |
| 16 | officer of a business organization; a director of a business corporation, |
| 17 | nonprofit corporation, or mutual benefit enterprise; a member of a nonprofit |
| 18 | corporation, cooperative, or member-managed limited liability company; a |
| 19 | manager of a manager-managed limited liability company; and a general |
| 20 | partner of a partnership, limited partnership, or limited liability partnership. |

| 1 | (11)(14) "Registered caregiver" means a person who is at least 21 years |
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| 2 | old who has never been convicted of a drug-related crime of age, has met |
| 3 | eligibility requirements as determined by the Department in accordance with |
| 4 | this chapter, and who has agreed to undertake responsibility for managing the |
| 5 | well-being of a registered patient with respect to the use of marijuana for |
| 6 | symptom relief. |
| 7 | (12)(15) "Registered patient" means a resident of Vermont who has |
| 8 | been issued a registration card by the Department of Public Safety identifying |
| 9 | the person as having a debilitating medical condition pursuant to the provisions |
| 10 | of this subchapter. "Resident of Vermont" means a person whose domicile is |
| 11 | Vermont. |
| 12 | (13)(16) "Secure indoor facility" means a building or room equipped |
| 13 | with locks or other security devices that permit access only by a registered |
| 14 | caregiver, registered patient, or a principal officer or employee of a dispensary. |
| 15 | (17) "Terminal illness" means an incurable and irreversible disease |
| 16 | which would, within reasonable medical judgment, result in death. |
| 17 | (14)(18) "Transport" means the movement of marijuana and |
| 18 | marijuana-infused products from registered growing locations to their |
| 19 | associated dispensaries, between dispensaries, to registered patients and |
| 20 | registered caregivers in accordance with delivery protocols, or as otherwise |
| 21 | allowed under this subchapter. |

| 1 | (15)(19) "Usable marijuana" means the dried leaves and flowers of |
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| 2 | marijuana, and any mixture or preparation thereof, and does not include the |
| 3 | seeds, stalks, and roots of the plant. |
| 4 | (16)(20) "Use for symptom relief" means the acquisition, possession, |
| 5 | cultivation, use, transfer, or transportation of marijuana, or paraphernalia |
| 6 | relating to the administration of marijuana to alleviate the symptoms or effects |
| 7 | of a registered patient's debilitating medical condition which is in compliance |
| 8 | with all the limitations and restrictions of this subchapter. |
| 9 | Second: By adding a Sec. 3a to read: |
| 10 | Sec. 3a. 18 V.S.A. § 4474d is amended to read: |
| 11 | § 4474d. LAW ENFORCEMENT VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION; |
| 12 | RULEMAKING |
| 13 | * * * |
| 14 | (b) In response to a person-specific or property-specific inquiry by a law |
| 15 | enforcement officer or agency made in the course of a bona fide investigation |
| 16 | or prosecution, the Department may verify the identities and registered |
| 17 | property addresses of the registered patient and the patient's registered |
| 18 | caregiver, a dispensary, and the principal officer, the Board members, an |
| 19 | owner, principal, or financier of a dispensary, and the employees of a |
| 20 | dispensary. |

| 1 | (c) The Department shall maintain a separate secure electronic database |
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| 2 | accessible to law enforcement personnel 24 hours a day that uses a unique |
| 3 | identifier system to allow law enforcement to verify that a person or entity is a |
| 4 | registered patient, a registered caregiver, a dispensary, or the principal officer, |
| 5 | a board member an owner, principal, or financier of a dispensary, or an |
| 6 | employee of a dispensary. |
| 7 | * * * |
| 8 | Third: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a |
| 9 | new Sec. 4 to read: |
| 10 | Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e is amended to read: |
| 11 | § 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION |
| 12 | (a) A dispensary registered under this section may: |
| 13 | (1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, transfer, transport, supply, |
| 14 | sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and |
| 15 | marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered |
| 16 | patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and to his or her |
| 17 | registered caregiver for the registered patient's use for symptom relief. |
| 18 | (A) Marijuana-infused products shall include tinctures, oils, solvents, |
| 19 | and edible or potable goods. Only the portion of any marijuana-infused |
| 20 | product that is attributable to marijuana shall count toward the possession |
| 21 | limits of the dispensary and the patient. The Department of Public Safety shall |

| 1 | establish by rule the appropriate method to establish the weight of marijuana |
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| 2 | that is attributable to marijuana-infused products. A dispensary shall dispense |
| 3 | marijuana-infused products in child-resistant packaging as defined in 7 V.S.A. |
| 4 | <u>§ 1012.</u> |
| 5 | (2)(A) Acquire marijuana seeds or parts of the marijuana plant capable |
| 6 | of regeneration from or dispense them to registered patients or their caregivers |
| 7 | or acquire them from another registered Vermont dispensary, provided that |
| 8 | records are kept concerning the amount and the recipient. |
| 9 | (B) Acquire, purchase, or borrow marijuana, marijuana-infused |
| 10 | products, or services from another registered Vermont dispensary or give, sell, |
| 11 | or lend marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or services to another registered |
| 12 | Vermont dispensary, provided that records are kept concerning the product, the |
| 13 | amount, and the recipient. Each Vermont dispensary is required to adhere to |
| 14 | all possession limits pertaining to cultivation as determined by the number of |
| 15 | patients designating that dispensary and may not transfer eligibility to another |
| 16 | dispensary. |
| 17 | (3)(A) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana |
| 18 | plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana. |
| 19 | However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the |
| 20 | dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time two mature marijuana |

| 1 | plants, seven immature plants, and four ounces of usable marijuana for every |
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| 2 | registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary. |
| 3 | (B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision, if a |
| 4 | dispensary is designated by a registered patient under 18 years of age who |
| 5 | qualifies for the registry because of seizures, the dispensary may apply to the |
| 6 | Department for a waiver of the limits in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) |
| 7 | if additional capacity is necessary to develop and provide an adequate supply |
| 8 | of a product for symptom relief for the patient. The Department shall have |
| 9 | discretion whether to grant a waiver and limit the possession amounts in excess |
| 10 | of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) in accordance with rules adopted |
| 11 | pursuant to section 4474d of this title. |
| 12 | (4) With approval from the Department and in accordance with patient |
| 13 | delivery protocols set forth in rule, transport and transfer marijuana to a |
| 14 | Vermont postsecondary academic institution for the purpose of research. |
| 15 | (b)(1) A dispensary shall may be operated on a for profit or nonprofit basis |
| 16 | for the mutual benefit of its patients but need not be recognized as a tax- |
| 17 | exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. |
| 18 | (2) A dispensary shall have a sliding-scale fee system that takes into |
| 19 | account a registered patient's ability to pay. |

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| (c) A dispensary shall not be located within 1,000 feet of the property line |
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| of a preexisting public or private school or licensed or regulated child care |
| facility. |

(d)(1) A dispensary shall implement appropriate security measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana and shall ensure that each location has an operational security alarm system. All cultivation of marijuana shall take place in an enclosed, locked facility which is either indoors or otherwise not visible to the public and which can only be accessed by principal officers the owners, principals, and employees of the dispensary who have valid registry identification cards. The Department of Public Safety shall perform an annual on-site assessment of each dispensary and may perform on-site assessments of a dispensary without limitation for the purpose of determining compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter and may enter a dispensary at any time for such purpose. During an inspection, the Department may review the dispensary's confidential records, including its dispensing records, which shall track transactions according to registered patients' registry identification numbers to protect their confidentiality.

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(f) A person may be denied the right to serve as an owner, a principal officer, board member, financier, or employee of a dispensary because of the

1 person's criminal history record in accordance with section 4474g of this title 2 and rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to that section. 3 (g)(1) A dispensary shall notify the Department of Public Safety within 10 4 days of when a principal officer, board member, an owner, principal, financier, 5 or employee ceases to be associated with or work at the dispensary. His or her 6 registry identification card shall be deemed null and void, and the person shall 7 be liable for any penalties that may apply. 8 (2) A dispensary shall notify the Department of Public Safety in writing 9 of the name, address, and date of birth of any proposed new principal officer, 10 board member owner, principal, financier, or employee and shall submit a fee 11 for a new registry identification card before a new principal officer, board 12 member owner, principal, or employee begins his or her official duties related 13 to the dispensary and shall submit a complete set of fingerprints for the 14 prospective principal officer, board member owner, principal, financier, or 15 employee. 16 (h) A dispensary shall include a label on the packaging of all marijuana that 17 is dispensed. The label shall: 18 (1) identify Identify the particular strain of marijuana contained therein. 19 Cannabis strains shall be either pure breeds or hybrid varieties of cannabis and

shall reflect properties of the plant. The label also shall

| 1 | (2) Identify the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol in each single dose |
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| 2 | marijuana-infused edible or potable product. |
| 3 | (3) contain Contain a statement to the effect that the State of Vermont |
| 4 | does not attest to the medicinal value of cannabis. |
| 5 | (i) Each dispensary shall develop, implement, and maintain on the premises |
| 6 | employee policies and procedures to address the following requirements: |
| 7 | (1) a job description or employment contract developed for all |
| 8 | employees which includes duties, authority, responsibilities, qualification, and |
| 9 | supervision; |
| 10 | (2) training in and adherence to confidentiality laws; and |
| 11 | (3) training for employees required by subsection (j) of this section. |
| 12 | (j) Each dispensary shall maintain a personnel record for each employee |
| 13 | that includes an application for employment and a record of any disciplinary |
| 14 | action taken. Each dispensary shall provide each employee, at the time of his |
| 15 | or her initial appointment, training in the following: |
| 16 | (1) the proper use of security measures and controls that have been |
| 17 | adopted; and |
| 18 | (2) specific procedural instructions on how to respond to an emergency, |
| 19 | including robbery or violent incident. |
| 20 | (k)(1) No dispensary, principal officer, board member or owner, principal, |
| 21 | financier, or employee of a dispensary shall: |

| 1 | (A) acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, transfer, transport, |
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| 2 | supply, sell, or dispense marijuana for any purpose except to assist a registered |
| 3 | patient with the use of marijuana for symptom relief directly or through the |
| 4 | qualifying patient's designated caregiver; |
| 5 | (B) acquire usable marijuana or marijuana plants from any source |
| 6 | other than registered dispensary principal officers, board members owners, |
| 7 | principals, or employees who cultivate marijuana in accordance with this |
| 8 | subchapter; |
| 9 | (C) dispense more than two ounces of usable marijuana to a |
| 10 | registered patient directly or through the qualifying patient's registered |
| 11 | caregiver during a 30-day period; |
| 12 | (D) dispense an amount of usable marijuana to a qualifying patient or |
| 13 | a designated caregiver that the principal officer, board member owner, |
| 14 | principal, or employee knows would cause the recipient to possess more |
| 15 | marijuana than is permitted under this subchapter; |
| 16 | (E) dispense marijuana to a person other than a registered patient |
| 17 | who has designated the dispensary to provide for his or her needs or other than |
| 18 | the patient's registered caregiver. |
| 19 | (2) A person found to have violated subdivision (1) of this subsection |
| 20 | may no longer serve as a principal officer, board member an owner, principal, |
| 21 | financier, or employee of any dispensary, and such person's registry |

| 1 | identification card shall be immediately revoked by the Department of Public |
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| 2 | Safety. |
| 3 | (3) The board of a dispensary shall be required to report to the |
| 4 | Department of Public Safety any information regarding a person who violates |
| 5 | this section. |
| 6 | (l)(1) A registered dispensary shall not be subject to the following, |
| 7 | provided that it is in compliance with this subchapter: |
| 8 | (A) prosecution for the acquisition, possession, cultivation, |
| 9 | manufacture, transfer, transport, supply, sale, or dispensing of marijuana, |
| 10 | marijuana-infused products, or marijuana-related supplies for symptom relief |
| 11 | in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter and any rule adopted by |
| 12 | the Department of Public Safety pursuant to this subchapter; |
| 13 | (B) inspection and search, except pursuant to this subchapter or upon |
| 14 | a search warrant issued by a court or judicial officer; |
| 15 | (C) seizure of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and |
| 16 | marijuana-related supplies, except upon a valid order issued by a court; |
| 17 | (D) imposition of any penalty or denied any right or privilege, |
| 18 | including imposition of a civil penalty or disciplinary action by an |
| 19 | occupational or professional licensing board or entity, solely for acting in |
| 20 | accordance with this subchapter to assist registered patients or registered |
| 21 | caregivers. |

| 1 | (2) No principal officer, board member owner, principal, financier, or |
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| 2 | employee of a dispensary shall be subject to arrest, prosecution, search, |
| 3 | seizure, or penalty in any manner or denied any right or privilege, including |
| 4 | civil penalty or disciplinary action by an occupational or professional licensing |
| 5 | board or entity, solely for working for or with a dispensary to engage in acts |
| 6 | permitted by this subchapter. |
| 7 | (m) [Repealed.] |
| 8 | (n) Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent a dispensary from acquiring, |
| 9 | possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, transferring, transporting, supplying, |
| 10 | selling, and dispensing hemp and hemp-infused products for symptom relief. |
| 11 | "Hemp" shall have the same meaning as provided in 6 V.S.A. § 562. A |
| 12 | dispensary shall not be required to comply with the provisions of 6 V.S.A. |
| 13 | chapter 34. |
| 14 | Fourth: By adding a Sec. 4a to read: |
| 15 | Sec. 4a. 18 V.S.A. § 4474f is amended to read: |
| 16 | § 4474f. DISPENSARY APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND |
| 17 | REGISTRATION |
| 18 | * * * |
| 19 | (c) Each application for a dispensary registration certificate shall include all |
| 20 | of the following: |

| 1 | (1) a nonrefundable application fee in the amount of \$2,500.00 paid to |
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| 2 | the Department of Public Safety; |
| 3 | (2) the legal name, articles of incorporation, and bylaws of the |
| 4 | dispensary and the organizational documents that create the dispensary, govern |
| 5 | its internal affairs, and govern relations between or among its interest holders; |
| 6 | (3) the proposed physical address of the dispensary, if a precise address |
| 7 | has been determined or, if not, the general location where it would be located; |
| 8 | (4) a description of the enclosed, locked facility where marijuana will be |
| 9 | grown, cultivated, harvested, or otherwise prepared for distribution by the |
| 10 | dispensary; |
| 11 | (5) the name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and |
| 12 | board member owner, principal, and financier of the dispensary and a complete |
| 13 | set of fingerprints for each of them; |
| 14 | (6) proposed security and safety measures, which shall include at least |
| 15 | one security alarm system for each location and planned measures to deter and |
| 16 | prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft |
| 17 | of marijuana; |
| 18 | (7) proposed procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping. |
| 19 | (d) Any time one or more dispensary registration applications are being |
| 20 | considered, the Department of Public Safety shall solicit input from registered |
| 21 | patients and registered caregivers. |

| 1 | (e) Each time a dispensary certificate is granted, the decision shall be based |
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| 2 | on the overall health needs of qualified patients. The following factors shall |
| 3 | weigh heavily in the consideration of an application: |
| 4 | (1) geographic convenience to patients from throughout the State of |
| 5 | Vermont to a dispensary if the applicant were approved; |
| 6 | (2) the entity's ability to provide an adequate supply to the registered |
| 7 | patients in the State; |
| 8 | (3) the entity's ability to demonstrate its board members' that its owners |
| 9 | and principals have sufficient experience running a nonprofit organization or |
| 10 | business; |
| 11 | (4) the comments, if any, of registered patients and registered caregivers |
| 12 | regarding which applicant should be granted a registration certificate; |
| 13 | (5) the sufficiency of the applicant's plans for record-keeping, which |
| 14 | records shall be considered confidential health care information under Vermont |
| 15 | law and are intended to be deemed protected health care information for |
| 16 | purposes of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of |
| 17 | 1996, as amended; |
| 18 | (6) the sufficiency of the applicant's plans for safety and security, |
| 19 | including the proposed location and security devices employed. |
| 20 | (f) The Department of Public Safety may deny an application for a |
| 21 | dispensary if it determines that an applicant's criminal history record indicates |

| 1 | that the person's association of an owner, principal, or financier with a |
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| 2 | dispensary would pose a demonstrable threat to public safety. |
| 3 | (g) After a dispensary is approved but before it begins operations, it shall |
| 4 | submit the following to the Department: |
| 5 | (1) the legal name and articles of incorporation of the dispensary and the |
| 6 | organizational documents that create the dispensary govern its internal affairs, |
| 7 | and govern relations between or among its interest holders; |
| 8 | (2) the physical address of the dispensary; |
| 9 | (3) the name, address, and date of birth of each principal officer and |
| 10 | board member owner, principal, and financier of the dispensary along with a |
| 11 | complete set of fingerprints for each; |
| 12 | (4) a registration fee of \$20,000.00 for the first year of operation, and an |
| 13 | annual fee of \$25,000.00 in subsequent years. |
| 14 | (h) [Repealed.] |
| 15 | <u>Fifth</u> : By striking out Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a |
| 16 | new Sec. 5 to read: |
| 17 | Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g is amended to read: |
| 18 | § 4474g. DISPENSARY REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARD; |
| 19 | CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK |
| 20 | (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Department of |
| 21 | Public Safety shall issue each principal officer, Board member owner, |

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principal, and employee of a dispensary a registry identification card or renewal card within 30 days of receipt of the person's name, address, and date of birth and a fee of \$50.00. The fee shall be paid by the dispensary and the cost shall not be passed on to a principal officer, Board member an owner, principal, or employee. A person shall not serve as principal officer, Board member an owner, principal, or employee of a dispensary until that person has received a registry identification card issued under this section. Each card shall specify whether the cardholder is a principal officer, Board member an owner, principal, or employee of a dispensary and shall contain the following: (1) the name, address, and date of birth of the person; (2) the legal name of the dispensary with which the person is affiliated; (3) a random identification number that is unique to the person; (4) the date of issuance and the expiration date of the registry identification card; (5) a photograph of the person. (b) Prior to acting on an application for a registry identification card, the Department of Public Safety shall obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the

Department on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center.

- (c) When the Department of Public Safety obtains a criminal history record, the Department shall promptly provide a copy of the record to the applicant and to the principal officer and Board principals of the dispensary if the applicant is to be an employee. The Department shall inform the applicant of the right to appeal the accuracy and completeness of the record pursuant to rules adopted by the Department. A fingerprint-supported, out-of-state criminal history record and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be required only every three years for renewal of a card for a dispensary owner or principal.
- (d) The Department of Public Safety shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy. No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal history record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this subchapter.
- (e) The Department of Public Safety shall not issue a registry identification card to any applicant who has been convicted of a drug-related offense or a violent felony or who has a pending charge for such an offense. For purposes of As used in this subchapter, "violent felony" means a listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) or an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of 13 V.S.A. chapter 64.

- (f) The Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules for the issuance of a registry identification card and shall set forth standards for determining whether an applicant should be denied a registry identification card because his or her criminal history record indicates that the person's association with a dispensary would pose a demonstrable threat to public safety. The rules shall consider whether a person who has a conviction for an offense not listed in subsection (e) of this section has been rehabilitated. A conviction for an offense not listed in subsection (e) of this section shall not automatically disqualify a person for a registry identification card. A dispensary may deny a person the opportunity to serve as a Board member or an employee based on his or her criminal history record. An applicant who is denied a registry identification card may appeal the Department of Public Safety's determination in Superior Court in accordance with Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (g) A registration identification card of a principal officer, Board member an owner, principal, or employee shall expire one year after its issuance or upon the expiration of the registered organization's registration certificate, whichever occurs first.

| 1 | Sixth: By striking out Sec. 7 (effective date) in its entirety and inserting in |
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| 2 | lieu thereof Secs. 7–8 to read: |
| 3 | Sec. 7. AUTHORITY FOR CURRENTLY REGISTERED NONPROFIT |
| 4 | DISPENSARY TO CONVERT TO FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS |
| 5 | (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of Title 11B of the Vermont |
| 6 | Statutes Annotated, a nonprofit dispensary registered pursuant to 18 V.S.A. |
| 7 | chapter 86 may convert to a different type of business organization by |
| 8 | approving a plan of conversion pursuant to this section. |
| 9 | (b) A plan of conversion shall include: |
| 10 | (1) the name of the converting organization; |
| 11 | (2) the name and type of organization of the converted organization; |
| 12 | (3) the manner and basis for converting the assets of the converting |
| 13 | organization into interests in the converted organization or other consideration |
| 14 | (4) the proposed organizational documents of the converted |
| 15 | organization; and |
| 16 | (5) the other terms and conditions of the conversion. |
| 17 | (c) A converting organization shall approve a plan of conversion by a |
| 18 | majority vote of its directors, and by a separate majority vote of its members if |
| 19 | it has members. |

| 1 | (d) A converting organization may amend or abandon a plan of conversion |
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| 2 | before it takes effect in the same manner it approved the plan, if the plan does |
| 3 | not specify how to amend the plan. |
| 4 | (e) A converting organization shall sign a statement of conversion and |
| 5 | deliver it to the Secretary of State for filing. A statement of conversion shall |
| 6 | include: |
| 7 | (1) the name and type of organization prior to the conversion; |
| 8 | (2) the name and type of organization following the conversion; |
| 9 | (3) a statement that the converting organization approved the plan of |
| 10 | conversion in accordance with the provisions of this act; and |
| 11 | (4) the organizational documents of the converted organization. |
| 12 | (f) The conversion of a nonprofit dispensary takes effect when the |
| 13 | statement of conversion takes effect, and when the conversion takes effect: |
| 14 | (1) The converted organization is: |
| 15 | (A) organized under and subject to the governing statute of the |
| 16 | converted organization; and |
| 17 | (B) the same organization continuing without interruption as the |
| 18 | converting organization. |
| 19 | (2) Subject to the plan of conversion, the property of the converting |
| 20 | organization continues to be vested in the converted organization without |
| 21 | transfer, assignment, reversion, or impairment. |

| 1 | (3) The debts, obligations, and other liabilities of the converting |
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| 2 | organization continue as debts, obligations, and other liabilities of the |
| 3 | converted organization. |
| 4 | (4) A court or other authority may substitute the name of the converted |
| 5 | organization for the name of the converting organization in any pending action |
| 6 | or proceeding. |
| 7 | (5) The organizational documents of the converted organization take |
| 8 | effect. |
| 9 | (6) The assets of the converting organization are converted pursuant to |
| 10 | the plan of conversion. |
| 11 | (g) When a conversion takes effect, a person who did not have personal |
| 12 | liability with respect to the converting organization and becomes subject to |
| 13 | personal liability with respect to the converted organization as a result of the |
| 14 | conversion has personal liability only to the extent provided by the governing |
| 15 | statute of the converted organization and only for those debts, obligations, and |
| 16 | other liabilities that the converted organization incurs after the conversion. |
| 17 | (h) When a conversion takes effect, a person who had personal liability for |
| 18 | a debt, obligation, or other liability of the converting organization but who |
| 19 | does not have personal liability with respect to the converted organization is |
| 20 | subject to the following rules: |

| 1 | (1) The conversion does not discharge any personal liability under this |
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| 2 | title to the extent the personal liability was incurred before the conversion took |
| 3 | effect. |
| 4 | (2) The person does not have personal liability under this title for any |
| 5 | debt, obligation, or other liability that arises after the conversion takes effect. |
| 6 | (3) Title 11B continues to apply to the release, collection, or discharge |
| 7 | of any personal liability preserved under subdivision (1) of this subsection as if |
| 8 | the conversion had not occurred. |
| 9 | (i) A conversion does not require an organization to wind up its affairs and |
| 10 | does not constitute or cause the dissolution of the organization. |
| 11 | Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE |
| 12 | This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016. |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |
| 15 | (Committee vote:) |
| 16 | |
| 17 | Representative |
| 18 | FOR THE COMMITTEE |