

S.222

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment thereto:

By adding Secs. 17a-17e to read as follows:

Sec. 17a. 18 V.S.A. § 4474c is amended to read:

§ 4474c. PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

REGARDING THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR SYMPTOM
RELIEF

* * *

(c) ~~A registered patient or registered caregiver who elects to grow marijuana to be used for symptom relief by the patient may do so only if the marijuana is cultivated in a single, secure indoor facility~~ Personal cultivation of marijuana by a patient or caregiver on behalf of a patient only shall occur:

(1) on property lawfully in possession of the cultivator or with the written consent of the person in lawful possession of the property; and

(2) in an enclosure that is screened from public view and is secure so that access is limited to the cultivator and persons 21 years of age or older who have permission from the cultivator.

(d) ~~A registered patient or registered caregiver may not transport marijuana in public unless it is secured in a locked container.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

(g) The use of marijuana by a registered patient shall not be the sole factor disqualifying the patient from any needed medical procedure or treatment, including organ and tissue transplants.

Sec. 17b. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e is amended to read:

§ 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

(a) A dispensary registered under this section may:

(1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, test, transfer, transport, supply, sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and to his or her registered caregiver for the registered patient's use for symptom relief.

* * *

(3)(A) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana.

However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time ~~two~~ three mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and four ounces of usable marijuana for every registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary.

* * *

(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 a secure, locked facility which is either indoors or outdoors, but not visible to the public and that can only be accessed by the owners, principals, financiers, and employees of the dispensary who have valid Registry identification cards. An outdoor facility is not required to have a roof, provided all other requirements are met. The Department 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.

(2)(A) A registered patient or registered caregiver may obtain marijuana from the dispensary by appointment only.

(B) A dispensary may deliver marijuana to a registered patient or registered caregiver. The marijuana shall be transported in a locked container.

(3) The operating documents of a dispensary shall include procedures for the oversight of the dispensary and procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping.

(4) A dispensary shall submit the results of a financial audit to the Department of Public Safety ~~no~~ not later than ~~60~~ 90 days after the end of the dispensary's first fiscal year, and every other year thereafter. The audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant, and the costs of any such audit shall be borne by the dispensary. The Department may also periodically require, within its discretion, the audit of a dispensary's financial records by the Department.

* * *

(n) Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent a dispensary from acquiring, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, testing, transferring, transporting, supplying, selling, and dispensing hemp and hemp-infused products ~~for symptom relief~~. "Hemp" shall have the same meaning as provided in 6 V.S.A. § 562. A dispensary shall not be required to comply with the provisions of 6 V.S.A. chapter 34.

Sec. 17c. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g is amended to read:

§ 4474g. DISPENSARY REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARD;
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

(a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the~~ The Department shall issue each owner, principal, financier, and employee of a dispensary a Registry identification card or renewal card within 30 days ~~of~~ after 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 an owner,

principal, financier, or employee. A Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a person shall not serve as an owner, principal, financier, 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 an owner, principal, financier, 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; and

- (5) a photograph of the person.

(b)(1) Prior to acting on an application for a Registry identification card, the Department 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.

(2) Once a Registry card application has been submitted, a person may serve as an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary pending the background check, provided the person is supervised in his or her duties by someone who is a cardholder. The Department shall issue a temporary permit

to the person for this purpose, which shall expire upon the issuance of the Registry card or disqualification of the person in accordance with this section.

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Sec. 17d. 18 V.S.A. § 4474m is amended to read:

§ 4474m. ~~DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY;~~ PROVISION OF
EDUCATIONAL AND SAFETY INFORMATION

The Department of Public Safety shall provide educational and safety information developed by the Vermont Department of Health, in consultation with dispensaries, to each registered patient upon registration pursuant to section 4473 of this title, and to each registered caregiver upon registration pursuant to section 4474 of this title.

Sec. 17e. AUTOMOBILE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; STUDY

The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall review the minimum automobile insurance requirements in each of the states located in the northeastern region of the United States and shall report his or her findings and recommendations with respect to Vermont's minimum automobile insurance requirements to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2018.