Present law provides for medical marijuana to be prescribed by a licensed physician practicing medicine in the state. Proposed law provides for medical marijuana to be recommended by a licensed physician that is licensed by the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners, domiciled in Louisiana, and in good standing with the board.

Proposed law changes the present law from certain specified diseases related to marijuana prescriptions to "debilitating medical conditions" which means cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces cachexia or wasting syndrome, seizure disorders, epilepsy, severe muscle spasms, including those characteristic of Crohn's disease or multiple sclerosis.

Proposed law instructs the boards to update rules to reflect proposed law changes.

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

This bill changes language from "prescribed" to "recommended" which is anticipated to legally allow physicians to instruct applicable pharmacies to dispense medical marijuana. Currently, it is a federal violation to prescribe cannabis for medical use since it is a Schedule 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act. In addition, the measure expands the list of medical conditions in which a pharmacist can recommend medical marijuana to patients. Currently, only three medical conditions can be prescribed.

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

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**EXPERIMENTAL EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

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**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.