
DIGEST

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HB 988 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Landry

Abstract: Provides relative to persons employed by the state being treated with medical marijuana.

Present law authorizes a licensed physician to recommend, in any form as permitted by the rules and regulations of the La. Bd. of Pharmacy, raw or crude marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinols, or a chemical derivative of tetrahydrocannabinols for therapeutic use by any patient clinically diagnosed as suffering from a debilitating medical condition.

Present law authorizes a public employer to:

- (1) Require employees, as a condition of continued employment, to be tested for the presence of drugs following an accident during the course and scope of his employment, under other circumstances which result in reasonable suspicion that drugs are being used, or as a part of a monitoring program established by the employer to assure compliance with terms of a rehabilitation agreement.
- (2) Require prospective employees, as a condition of hiring, to be tested for the presence of drugs.
- (3) Implement a program of random drug testing of those employees who occupy safety-sensitive or security-sensitive positions.

Proposed law prohibits a state employer from subjecting an employee or prospective employee to negative employment consequences based solely on a positive drug test for marijuana if the employee or prospective employee has been clinically diagnosed as suffering from a debilitating medical condition and a licensed physician has recommended marijuana for therapeutic use by the employee in accordance present law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be construed to prohibit the imposition of negative employment consequences on an employee who uses or is impaired by marijuana on the premises of the employer or during work hours.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not apply to law enforcement, public safety officials, and firefighter services.

Present law provides that negative employment consequences means any action which negatively impacts an employee's or prospective employee's employment status, including termination of

employment, refusal to hire, or altered conditions of employment such as counseling, probation, suspension, and demotion.

(Adds R.S. 49:1016)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill:

1. Change the applicability from public employment to state employment.
2. Add an exception for law enforcement, public safety officials, and firefighter services.