
DIGEST

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HB 579 Original

2018 Regular Session

James

Abstract: Provides relative to the La. Board of Medical Examiners and the La. Board of Pharmacy in authorizing marijuana for therapeutic use.

Present law authorizes licensed physicians to recommend in any form, with specific exceptions, tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) or chemical derivatives of THC for therapeutic use by patients clinically diagnosed as suffering from a debilitating medical condition.

Proposed law provides that licensed physicians may recommend marijuana or marijuana preparations for therapeutic use for patients suffering from a debilitating medical condition.

Proposed law provides that licensed pharmacists may dispense marijuana preparations and marijuana paraphernalia to patients enrolled in the state-sponsored medical marijuana program in Louisiana, their caregivers, and minor patients' domiciliary parents.

Present law defines debilitating medical conditions as: cancer, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, cachexia or wasting syndrome, seizure disorders, epilepsy, spasticity, Crohn's disease, muscular dystrophy, or multiple sclerosis.

Proposed law adds to the list: glaucoma, severe muscle spasms, intractable pain, and post traumatic stress disorder.

Proposed law adds and defines intractable pain as a pain state in which the cause of the pain cannot be removed or otherwise treated with the consent of the patient and which, in the generally accepted course of medical practice, no relief or cure of the cause of the pain is possible, or none has been found after reasonable efforts. It is pain so chronic and severe as to otherwise warrant an opiate prescription.

(Amends R.S. 40:1046(A) and (G))