



Re.: Recommendations from the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group

Members of the Health and Human Services and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committees:

During the 2022 General Session, the Legislature passed SB153, *Medical Cannabis Governance Study*. SB153 authorized the Legislative Management Committee to create a medical cannabis governance working group and tasked the working group to study and make recommendations regarding governance of medical cannabis in the state. Per SB153, the working group must submit recommendations to the Health and Human Services and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committees by the October interim meeting.

The appointed working group has held five public meetings; worked with industry, patients, medical providers, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) to conduct a review of the state’s governance structure; and reviewed regulatory structures of other states. Based on the working group’s study of the state’s governance structure and input from stakeholders, we recommend the following statutory amendments:

- 1) Establish a nine-member Medical Cannabis Advisory Board that is supported by DHHS.

The advisory board will not require Senate confirmation and does not have rulemaking authority. The advisory board will oversee the governance of medical cannabis and offer a public platform for resolving governance issues between industry and regulatory agencies and allow for patient input.

We recommend the following nine appointees:

- a. Appointed by DHHS:
 - i. Qualified medical provider
 - ii. Medical research professional
 - iii. Mental health specialist
 - iv. Cannabis patient advocate/representative
 - v. Cannabis patient
 - vi. Public member
- b. Appointed by UDAF:
 - i. Cannabis pharmacy
 - ii. Cannabis cultivator
 - 1. The cannabis pharmacy or the cannabis cultivator should also have a cannabis processing license
 - iii. Law enforcement representative



- 2) Adopt the governance recommendations of DHHS and UDAF.

At the August 8, 2022, meeting of the working group, the agencies recommended moving pharmacy and courier regulation under the authority of UDAF to streamline the regulation of medical cannabis. These recommendations received positive feedback from industry and the working group recommends they be adopted.

- 3) Extend the sunset for the working group.

SB153 set a repeal date of July 1, 2023. The working group feels that there is more opportunity for public discussion about the governance of medical cannabis in the state and recommends that the sunset date extend another year, to July 1, 2024. The working group will continue to receive staff support from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations to improve the governance structure for medical cannabis and welcome your feedback.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evan J. Vickers".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Brooks".

Sen. Evan J. Vickers, Chair

Rep. Walt Brooks, Chair

Sen. Gene Davis

Sen. Derrin Owens

Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost

Rep. Raymond P. Ward