

By the Committee on Health Policy; and Senators Rouson, Bradley, and Young

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to Department of Health  
3       responsibilities related to the medical use of  
4       marijuana; amending s. 381.986, F.S.; requiring the  
5       department to adopt rules to allow qualified patients  
6       to change qualified physicians; deleting an obsolete  
7       date; revising a requirement that the department  
8       license one applicant who is a member of a certain  
9       class to exclude a requirement that the applicant also  
10      be a member of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalist  
11      Association-Florida Chapter; providing an effective  
12      date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16       Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (4) and paragraph  
17      (a) of subsection (8) of section 381.986, Florida Statutes, are  
18      amended to read:

19       381.986 Medical use of marijuana.—

20       (4) PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION.—

21       (h) The department, the Board of Medicine, and the Board of  
22      Osteopathic Medicine may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
23      and 120.54 to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant  
24      to this subsection must include a process by which a qualified  
25      patient may change qualified physicians while retaining an  
26      active registration on the medical marijuana use registry. This  
27      process must include safeguards to ensure that any new physician  
28      certification issued to the patient after he or she changes  
29      physicians does not combine with any existing patient

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30 certification to allow the patient to possess more than the 70-  
31 day supply limits.

32 (8) MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS.—

33 (a) The department shall license medical marijuana  
34 treatment centers to ensure reasonable statewide accessibility  
35 and availability as necessary for qualified patients registered  
36 in the medical marijuana use registry and who are issued a  
37 physician certification under this section.

38 1. As soon as practicable, but no later than July 3, 2017,  
39 the department shall license as a medical marijuana treatment  
40 center any entity that holds an active, unrestricted license to  
41 cultivate, process, transport, and dispense low-THC cannabis,  
42 medical cannabis, and cannabis delivery devices, under former s.  
43 381.986, Florida Statutes 2016, before July 1, 2017, and which  
44 meets the requirements of this section. In addition to the  
45 authority granted under this section, these entities are  
46 authorized to dispense low-THC cannabis, medical cannabis, and  
47 cannabis delivery devices ordered pursuant to former s. 381.986,  
48 Florida Statutes 2016, which were entered into the compassionate  
49 use registry before July 1, 2017, and are authorized to begin  
50 dispensing marijuana under this section on July 3, 2017. The  
51 department may grant variances from the representations made in  
52 such an entity's original application for approval under former  
53 s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2014, pursuant to paragraph (e).

54 2. The department shall license as medical marijuana  
55 treatment centers 10 applicants that meet the requirements of  
56 this section, under the following parameters:

57 a. As soon as practicable, but no later than August 1,  
58 2017, the department shall license any applicant whose

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59 application was reviewed, evaluated, and scored by the  
60 department and which was denied a dispensing organization  
61 license by the department under former s. 381.986, Florida  
62 Statutes 2014; which had one or more administrative or judicial  
63 challenges pending as of January 1, 2017, or had a final ranking  
64 within one point of the highest final ranking in its region  
65 under former s. 381.986, Florida Statutes 2014; which meets the  
66 requirements of this section; and which provides documentation  
67 to the department that it has the existing infrastructure and  
68 technical and technological ability to begin cultivating  
69 marijuana within 30 days after registration as a medical  
70 marijuana treatment center.

71 b. As soon as practicable, ~~but no later than October 3,~~  
72 ~~2017,~~ the department shall license one applicant that is a  
73 recognized class member of *Pigford v. Glickman*, 185 F.R.D. 82  
74 (D.D.C. 1999), or *In Re Black Farmers Litig.*, 856 F. Supp. 2d 1  
75 (D.D.C. 2011) ~~and is a member of the Black Farmers and~~  
76 ~~Agriculturalists Association Florida Chapter.~~ An applicant  
77 licensed under this sub-subparagraph is exempt from the  
78 requirement of subparagraph (b)2 ~~requirements of subparagraphs~~  
79 ~~(b)1. and 2.~~

80 c. As soon as practicable, but no later than October 3,  
81 2017, the department shall license applicants that meet the  
82 requirements of this section in sufficient numbers to result in  
83 10 total licenses issued under this subparagraph, while  
84 accounting for the number of licenses issued under sub-  
85 subparagraphs a. and b.

86 3. For up to two of the licenses issued under subparagraph  
87 2., the department shall give preference to applicants that

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88 demonstrate in their applications that they own one or more  
89 facilities that are, or were, used for the canning,  
90 concentrating, or otherwise processing of citrus fruit or citrus  
91 molasses and will use or convert the facility or facilities for  
92 the processing of marijuana.

93 4. Within 6 months after the registration of 100,000 active  
94 qualified patients in the medical marijuana use registry, the  
95 department shall license four additional medical marijuana  
96 treatment centers that meet the requirements of this section.  
97 Thereafter, the department shall license four medical marijuana  
98 treatment centers within 6 months after the registration of each  
99 additional 100,000 active qualified patients in the medical  
100 marijuana use registry that meet the requirements of this  
101 section.

102 5. Dispensing facilities are subject to the following  
103 requirements:

104 a. A medical marijuana treatment center may not establish  
105 or operate more than a statewide maximum of 25 dispensing  
106 facilities, unless the medical marijuana use registry reaches a  
107 total of 100,000 active registered qualified patients. When the  
108 medical marijuana use registry reaches 100,000 active registered  
109 qualified patients, and then upon each further instance of the  
110 total active registered qualified patients increasing by  
111 100,000, the statewide maximum number of dispensing facilities  
112 that each licensed medical marijuana treatment center may  
113 establish and operate increases by five.

114 b. A medical marijuana treatment center may not establish  
115 more than the maximum number of dispensing facilities allowed in  
116 each of the Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and

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117 Southeast Regions. The department shall determine a medical  
118 marijuana treatment center's maximum number of dispensing  
119 facilities allowed in each region by calculating the percentage  
120 of the total statewide population contained within that region  
121 and multiplying that percentage by the medical marijuana  
122 treatment center's statewide maximum number of dispensing  
123 facilities established under sub-subparagraph a., rounded to the  
124 nearest whole number. The department shall ensure that such  
125 rounding does not cause a medical marijuana treatment center's  
126 total number of statewide dispensing facilities to exceed its  
127 statewide maximum. The department shall initially calculate the  
128 maximum number of dispensing facilities allowed in each region  
129 for each medical marijuana treatment center using county  
130 population estimates from the Florida Estimates of Population  
131 2016, as published by the Office of Economic and Demographic  
132 Research, and shall perform recalculations following the  
133 official release of county population data resulting from each  
134 United States Decennial Census. For the purposes of this  
135 subparagraph:

136 (I) The Northwest Region consists of Bay, Calhoun,  
137 Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson,  
138 Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla,  
139 Walton, and Washington Counties.

140 (II) The Northeast Region consists of Alachua, Baker,  
141 Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist,  
142 Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns,  
143 Suwannee, and Union Counties.

144 (III) The Central Region consists of Brevard, Citrus,  
145 Hardee, Hernando, Indian River, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Pasco,

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146 Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia  
147 Counties.

148 (IV) The Southwest Region consists of Charlotte, Collier,  
149 DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee,  
150 Okeechobee, and Sarasota Counties.

151 (V) The Southeast Region consists of Broward, Miami-Dade,  
152 Martin, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties.

153 c. If a medical marijuana treatment center establishes a  
154 number of dispensing facilities within a region that is less  
155 than the number allowed for that region under sub-subparagraph  
156 b., the medical marijuana treatment center may sell one or more  
157 of its unused dispensing facility slots to other licensed  
158 medical marijuana treatment centers. For each dispensing  
159 facility slot that a medical marijuana treatment center sells,  
160 that medical marijuana treatment center's statewide maximum  
161 number of dispensing facilities, as determined under sub-  
162 subparagraph a., is reduced by one. The statewide maximum number  
163 of dispensing facilities for a medical marijuana treatment  
164 center that purchases an unused dispensing facility slot is  
165 increased by one per slot purchased. Additionally, the sale of a  
166 dispensing facility slot shall reduce the seller's regional  
167 maximum and increase the purchaser's regional maximum number of  
168 dispensing facilities, as determined in sub-subparagraph b., by  
169 one for that region. For any slot purchased under this sub-  
170 subparagraph, the regional restriction applied to that slot's  
171 location under sub-subparagraph b. before the purchase shall  
172 remain in effect following the purchase. A medical marijuana  
173 treatment center that sells or purchases a dispensing facility  
174 slot must notify the department within 3 days of sale.

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175           d. This subparagraph shall expire on April 1, 2020.

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177       If this subparagraph or its application to any person or  
178       circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect  
179       other provisions or applications of this act which can be given  
180       effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this  
181       end, the provisions of this subparagraph are severable.

182           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.