1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to medical marijuana public employee 3 protection; creating s. 112.219, F.S.; providing 4 definitions; prohibiting an employer from taking 5 adverse personnel action against an employee or a job 6 applicant who is a qualified patient using medical 7 marijuana; providing exceptions; requiring an employer to provide written notice of the right of an employee 8 9 or job applicant to explain a positive marijuana test result within a specified timeframe; providing 10 11 procedures when an employee or job applicant tests positive for marijuana; providing a cause of action 12 13 and damages; providing construction; providing an effective date. 14 15 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 17 18 Section 1. Section 112.219, Florida Statutes, is created 19 to read: 112.219 Medical Marijuana Public Employee Protection Act. -20 21 As used in this section, the term: "Adverse personnel action" means the refusal to hire 22 (a) 23 or employ a qualified patient; the discharge, suspension, 24 transfer, or demotion of a qualified patient; the mandatory

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retirement of a qualified patient; or the discrimination against

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26	a qualified patient with respect to compensation, terms,
27	conditions, or privileges of employment.
28	(b) "Confirmation test" has the same meaning as in s.
29	112.0455(5)(d).
30	(c) "Employee" has the same meaning as in s.
31	112.0455(5)(g).
32	(d) "Employer" means a state, regional, county, local, or
33	municipal government entity, whether executive, judicial, or
34	legislative; an official, an officer, a department, a division,
35	a bureau, a commission, an authority, or a political subdivision
36	therein; or a public school, community college, or state
37	university that employs individuals for salary, wages, or other
88	remuneration.
39	(e) "Job applicant" has the same meaning as in s.
10	112.0455(5)(f).
11	(f) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in s.
12	908.102.
13	(g) "Physician certification" has the same meaning as in
14	<u>s. 381.986(1).</u>
15	(h) "Qualified patient" has the same meaning as in s.
16	381.986(1).
17	(i) "Undue hardship" means an action requiring significant
18	difficulty or expense, when considered in light of the following
19	<pre>factors:</pre>
50	1. The nature, cost, and duration of the accommodation.

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2. The overall financial resources of the employer.

- 3. The overall size of the business of the employer with respect to the number of employees and the number, type, and location of the employer's facilities.
- 4. The effect on expenses and resources or any other impacts of such accommodation upon the operation of the employer.
- against an employee or a job applicant who is a qualified patient using medical marijuana consistent with s. 381.986.

 However, an employer may take appropriate adverse personnel action against an employee if the employer establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the lawful use of medical marijuana is impairing the employee's ability to perform his or her job responsibilities. For purposes of this subsection, an employer may consider an employee's ability to perform his or her job responsibilities to be impaired if the employee displays specific articulable symptoms while working which decrease or lessen the performance of his or her duties or tasks.
- (3) (a) If an employer has a drug testing policy and an employee or a job applicant tests positive for marijuana or its metabolites, the employer must provide written notice within 5 business days after receipt of the positive test result to the employee or job applicant of his or her right to provide an explanation for the positive test result.

(b) Within 5 business days after receipt of the written notice, the employee or job applicant may submit information to an employer explaining or contesting the positive test result or may request a confirmation test at the expense of the employee or job applicant.

- (c) An employee or a job applicant may submit a physician certification for medical marijuana or a medical marijuana use registry identification card as part of his or her explanation for the positive test result.
- (d) If an employee or a job applicant fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for the positive test result, an employer must verify the positive test result with a confirmation test, at the expense of the employer, before the employer may take adverse personnel action against the employee or job applicant.
- (4) (a) Notwithstanding s. 381.986(15), an employee or a job applicant who has been the subject of an adverse personnel action in violation of this section may institute a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for relief as set forth in paragraph (c) within 180 days after the alleged violation.
- (b) An employee or a job applicant may not recover in any action brought under this subsection if the adverse personnel action was predicated upon a ground other than the employee's or job applicant's exercise of a right protected by this section.
 - (c) In any action brought under this subsection, the court

101	may order any of the following:
102	1. An injunction restraining continued violation of this
103	section.
104	2. Reinstatement of the employee to the same position held
105	before the adverse personnel action, or to an equivalent
106	position.
107	3. Reinstatement of full fringe benefits and seniority
108	rights.
109	4. Compensation for lost wages, benefits, and other
110	remuneration.
111	5. Reasonable attorney fees and costs.
112	6. Any other compensatory damages allowable by general
113	law.
114	(5) This section does not:
115	(a) Prohibit an employer from taking adverse personnel
116	action against an employee for the possession or use of a
117	controlled substance, as defined in s. 893.02, during normal
118	business hours or require an employer to commit any act that
119	would cause the employer to violate federal law or that would
120	result in the loss of a federal contract or federal funding;
121	(b) Require a government medical assistance program or
122	private health insurer to reimburse a person for costs
123	associated with the use of medical marijuana;
124	(c) Require an employer to modify the job or working
125	conditions of a person who engages in the use of medical

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marijuana based on the reasonable business purposes of the
employer. However, notwithstanding s. 381.986(15) and except as
provided in paragraph (d), the employer must attempt to make
reasonable accommodations for the medical needs of an employee
who engages in the use of medical marijuana if the employee
holds a valid medical marijuana use registry identification
card, unless the employer can demonstrate that the accommodation
would pose a threat of harm or danger to persons or property,
impose an undue hardship on the employer, or prohibit an
employee from fulfilling his or her job responsibilities; or
(d) Prohibit a law enforcement agency from adopting
policies and procedures that preclude an employee from engaging
in the use of medical marijuana.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.