



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	H. 3081	Introduced on January 8, 2019
Author:	Henderson-Myers	
Subject:	Medical Use Marijuana Act	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Shuford and Gardner	
Impact Date:	January 31, 2019	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This expenditure and revenue impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

The State Law Enforcement Divisions (SLED) is working to provide an estimated fiscal impact for their responsibilities in certifying that this bill can be implemented in accordance with public health and safety interests. Therefore, the expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from SLED.

The Judicial Department indicates that the bill may create new perjury cases from false statements included in an application. This form of perjury is a misdemeanor offense punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months or a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, or both. As the bill creates a new mechanism for committing perjury, there is no data available that may be used to estimate any increase in the number of hearings or trials that will be held. The department will use existing General Funds to manage any additional costs resulting from an increase in caseloads. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the Judicial Department.

Based on the number of medical marijuana registrations in other states with similar laws, we estimate that 29,705 certified patients and designated caregivers will apply for registry identification cards. At \$50 per application, \$1,485,250 in fees may be collected on these applications. However, the amount of the fee for the registered organizations has not been set by DHEC or approved by the General Assembly in a regulation. Therefore, the revenue impact to Other Funds is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 8, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill allows the lawful possession, acquisition, use, delivery, transportation, or administration of medical marijuana by a certified patient or designated caregiver possessing a valid registry identification card for certified medical use. Possession of medical marijuana is not lawful if it is smoked, consumed, vaporized, or grown in a public place.

Upon physician certification that a patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from medical use of marijuana, DHEC shall issue registry identification cards for certified

patients and designated caregivers. A registry application or renewal must include a \$50 application fee. If a certified patient or designated caregiver loses a registry identification card, DHEC may impose a \$25 fee to maintain registration. DHEC may impose higher fees for second and subsequent replacements. In cases of financial hardship, DHEC may waive or reduce these fees.

Registered organizations are required to apply for registration with DHEC. Registrations will be granted if DHEC is satisfied that the applicant is able to maintain effective control against marijuana diversion, the applicant is able to properly perform the required manufacturing or distribution activities, and other conditions as required by the bill or as determined by the department. Registered organizations shall file any receipt and certification information with DHEC by electronic means on a real time basis as required by the department. DHEC may register no more than five registered organizations that manufacture medical marijuana. Each registered organization may have up to four dispensing sites. The registration fee for registered organizations must be a reasonable amount determined by DHEC in regulation.

Before full implementation of this bill, DHEC shall establish the Emergency Medical Marijuana Access Program to expedite the availability of medical marijuana. DHEC shall implement the program expeditiously as practicable, including the use of emergency regulation.

Department of Health and Environmental Control. DHEC is working to provide an estimated fiscal impact for this bill. Therefore, the expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the department.

State Law Enforcement Division. Registry identification cards or registered organizations registrations shall become effective no later than eighteen months from the effective date of this bill or when the Director of DHEC and the Chief of SLED certify that this bill can be implemented in accordance with public health and safety interests, whichever event comes later. SLED is working to provide an estimated fiscal impact for this responsibility. Therefore, the expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from SLED.

Judicial Department. The bill requires certified patient and designated caregiver applicants to provide certain information, including a statement attesting that false statements included in an application constitute perjury. This form of perjury is a misdemeanor offense punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months or a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, or both. As the bill creates a new mechanism for committing perjury, there is no data available that may be used to estimate any increase in the number of hearings or trials that will be held. The department will use existing General Funds to manage any additional costs resulting from an increase in caseloads.

State Revenue

This bill imposes a \$50 fee for registry application or renewal. If a certified patient or designated caregiver loses a registry identification card, DHEC may impose a \$25 fee to maintain registration. DHEC may impose higher fees for second and subsequent replacements. In cases of financial hardship, DHEC may waive or reduce these fees. Additionally, registered

organizations are required to apply for registration with DHEC, and the registration fee must be a reasonable amount determined by DHEC in regulation.

Based on the number of medical marijuana registrations in other states with similar laws, we estimate that approximately 5.74 persons per 1,000 residents in South Carolina will apply for certified patient and designated caregiver licenses. With an estimated South Carolina population of 5,175,000 in 2020, this suggests an estimated 29,705 certified patient and designated caregiver license applications. At \$50 per application, \$1,485,250 in fees may be collected on these applications. However, the amount of the fee for the registered organizations has not been set by DHEC or approved by the General Assembly in a regulation. Therefore, the revenue impact to Other Funds is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director