

HOUSE BILL 907

J1

EMERGENCY BILL

8lr1798

By: **Delegate Morhaim**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Medical Cannabis – Limit on the Number of Licensed Growers – Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the limit on the number of licenses that the Natalie M.
4 LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission may issue to medical cannabis growers;
5 making a conforming change; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally
6 relating to licenses issued to medical cannabis growers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 13–3306(a)(1)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 13–3306(a)(2)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 13–3306.

21 (a) (1) The Commission shall license medical cannabis growers that meet all
22 requirements established by the Commission to operate in the State to provide cannabis to:

23 (i) Processors licensed by the Commission under this subtitle;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) Dispensaries licensed by the Commission under this subtitle;
- 2 (iii) Qualifying patients and caregivers; and
- 3 (iv) Independent testing laboratories registered with the
4 Commission under this subtitle.

5 (2) [(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
6 Commission may license no more than 15 medical cannabis growers.

7 (ii) Beginning June 1, 2018, the Commission may issue the number
8 of licenses necessary to meet the demand for medical cannabis by qualifying patients and
9 caregivers issued identification cards under this subtitle in an affordable, accessible,
10 secure, and efficient manner.]

11 [(iii) (I) The Commission shall establish an application review
12 process for granting medical cannabis grower licenses in which applications are reviewed,
13 evaluated, and ranked based on criteria established by the Commission.

14 [(iv) (II) The Commission may not issue more than one medical
15 cannabis grower license to each applicant.

16 [(v) (III) A grower shall pay an application fee in an amount to be
17 determined by the Commission consistent with this subtitle.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
19 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
20 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
21 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
22 enacted.