

# SENATE BILL 1

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EMERGENCY BILL  
(PRE-FILED)

8lr0680  
CF HB 2

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By: **Senators Conway, McFadden, and Miller**

Requested: September 25, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act**

3 FOR the purpose of declaring the intent of the General Assembly with regard to the State's  
4 medical cannabis programs; requiring the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis  
5 Commission to conduct certain outreach to certain small, minority, and women  
6 business owners and entrepreneurs for certain purposes; authorizing the  
7 Commission to make grants to certain educational and business development  
8 organizations for certain purposes; requiring the Commission to partner with the  
9 Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to identify certain employment  
10 opportunities; altering the membership of the Commission; providing that the  
11 certain appointments made to the Commission are subject to the advice and consent  
12 of the Senate of Maryland; establishing certain qualifications for appointed members  
13 of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from having certain  
14 interests in certain licensees, having a certain relationship to a person who holds a  
15 certain license, being a certain official, receiving or sharing in certain receipts or  
16 proceeds, or having a certain interest in certain contracts; requiring the membership  
17 of the Commission, to the extent practicable and consistent with federal and State  
18 law, to reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the State; requiring a  
19 member of the Commission to file a certain disclosure statement; providing that the  
20 terms of the appointed members of the Commission are staggered as required by the  
21 terms provided for members on a certain date; providing that appointed members of  
22 the Commission are entitled to a certain salary and reimbursement for certain  
23 expenses; requiring that an appointed member of the Commission be paid at certain  
24 intervals; providing that the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee, is  
25 entitled to certain reimbursement; authorizing the Governor to remove a member of  
26 the Commission for just cause; requiring the Governor to appoint an executive  
27 director of the Commission with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland;  
28 establishing the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Compassionate Use Fund;  
29 requiring the Maryland Department of Health to administer the Fund and set  
30 certain fees; prohibiting the Commission from imposing certain fees on certain

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 licensed medical cannabis growers, processors, and dispensaries under certain  
2 circumstances; providing that the Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not  
3 subject to a certain provision of law; providing for the purpose of the Fund; requiring  
4 the State Treasurer to hold the Fund separately and the Comptroller to account for  
5 the Fund; requiring the Fund to be invested and reinvested in a certain manner;  
6 providing that interest earnings of the Fund shall be retained to the credit of the  
7 Fund; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of law requiring interest  
8 earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the State; providing that  
9 the Fund is subject to a certain audit; requiring the Comptroller to pay out money  
10 from the Fund as directed by the Department; requiring the Commission, in  
11 consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, to report to the General  
12 Assembly, on or before a certain date, on certain anticipated revenues, the amount  
13 of certain fees and on which licensees the fees should be assessed in order to generate  
14 certain revenues, the use of any other funding mechanisms to implement a certain  
15 program, and certain anticipated savings; prohibiting any part of the Fund from  
16 reverting or being credited to certain funds; providing that expenditures from the  
17 Fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget; requiring the Maryland  
18 Department of Health, in consultation with the Commission, to establish a certain  
19 program to allow certain individuals to obtain medical cannabis from certain  
20 dispensaries at no cost or a reduced cost and to reimburse certain dispensaries from  
21 a certain Fund; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to adopt certain  
22 regulations; prohibiting a constitutional officer or a secretary of a principal  
23 department of the Executive Branch of State government, except under certain  
24 circumstances, from being an owner or an employee of a certain business entity that  
25 holds a certain license or from having an official relationship to a certain business  
26 entity; requiring the Commission, in consultation with certain entities, to evaluate  
27 a certain study of the medical cannabis industry, make a certain determination  
28 relating to certain business participation in the medical cannabis industry, evaluate  
29 certain race-neutral programs and other methods, and submit certain emergency  
30 regulations; altering the number of medical cannabis growers that may be licensed  
31 by the Commission; authorizing the Commission to license a certain number of  
32 processors; requiring the Commission to report to the General Assembly, on or before  
33 a certain date, on the number of grower and processor licenses necessary to meet a  
34 demand for medical cannabis by certain individuals; prohibiting the Commission  
35 from submitting a certain report before a certain date; authorizing the Commission  
36 to submit a certain report during a certain time period only under certain  
37 circumstances; requiring the Commission, to the extent permitted by federal and  
38 State law, to seek to achieve certain diversity when licensing certain growers,  
39 processors, and dispensaries; requiring the Commission to encourage applicants who  
40 are small, minority, or women-owned business entities to apply for licensure;  
41 authorizing the Commission, except under certain circumstances, to register as an  
42 agent of certain licensed entities an individual who has been convicted of a certain  
43 offense; altering the period of time for which certain medical cannabis grower and  
44 processor licenses are valid; altering certain reporting requirements for certain  
45 medical cannabis growers; requiring certain dispensaries and processors, beginning  
46 on a certain date, to annually report certain information to the Commission; altering  
47 the information that the Commission must report to the Governor and the General

1 Assembly; requiring the terms of certain members of the Commission to terminate  
2 on a certain date; declaring the intent of the General Assembly relating to continuity  
3 within the membership of the Commission; specifying the terms of certain initial  
4 members of the Commission; prohibiting the Commission, except under certain  
5 circumstances, from reviewing, evaluating, or ranking an application for certain  
6 licenses or awarding certain additional licenses until certain regulations are  
7 adopted; requiring the Commission, under certain circumstances, to accept certain  
8 applications for licensure, allow certain persons who previously applied for licensure  
9 to amend and resubmit or withdraw certain applications, and resume reviewing,  
10 evaluating, and ranking applications for certain licenses and awarding certain  
11 additional licenses; providing that the Commission, under certain circumstances,  
12 may waive a certain initial application fee for a certain person, but may charge a  
13 certain fee for the submission of an amended application; requiring the Commission,  
14 in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, to report to the General  
15 Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; making certain  
16 conforming and stylistic changes; repealing certain provisions of law made obsolete  
17 by this Act; applying certain provisions of this Act prospectively; making the  
18 provisions of this Act severable; making this Act an emergency measure; and  
19 generally relating to the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission.

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Health – General  
22 Section 13–3301.1, 13–3303.1, 13–3305.1, and 13–3305.2  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

26 Article – Health – General  
27 Section 13–3302, 13–3303, 13–3305, 13–3306(a), 13–3307(c), 13–3308(d), 13–3309(c)  
28 and (d), 13–3310(d), and 13–3316  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

31 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

32 Article – Health – General  
33 Section 13–3307(a) and 13–3309(a)  
34 Annotated Code of Maryland  
35 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

36 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

37 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
38 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
39 Annotated Code of Maryland  
40 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

41 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

42 Article – State Finance and Procurement

1 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)101. and 102.  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

4 BY adding to  
5 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
6 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)103.  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

11 **Article – Health – General**

12 **13–3301.1.**

13 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENDS THAT THE PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN**  
14 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE YIELD A SUCCESSFUL BUT**  
15 **CONSUMER–FRIENDLY MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE**  
16 **PATIENTS AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

17 13–3302.

18 (a) There is a Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission.

19 (b) The Commission is an independent commission that functions within the  
20 Department.

21 (c) The purpose of the Commission is to develop policies, procedures, guidelines,  
22 and regulations to implement programs to make medical cannabis available to qualifying  
23 patients in a safe and effective manner.

24 (d) (1) The Commission shall develop identification cards for qualifying  
25 patients and caregivers.

26 (2) (i) The Department shall adopt regulations that establish the  
27 requirements for identification cards provided by the Commission.

28 (ii) The regulations adopted under subparagraph (i) of this  
29 paragraph shall include:

- 30 1. The information to be included on an identification card;
- 31 2. The method through which the Commission will distribute  
32 identification cards; and

1                                   3.     The method through which the Commission will track  
2 identification cards.

3           (e)     The Commission shall develop and maintain a Web site that:

4                   (1)     Provides information on how an individual can obtain medical cannabis  
5 in the State; and

6                   (2)     Provides contact information for licensed dispensaries.

7           **(F)     (1)     THE COMMISSION:**

8                                   **(I)     SHALL CONDUCT ONGOING, THOROUGH, AND**  
9 **COMPREHENSIVE OUTREACH TO SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS**  
10 **AND ENTREPRENEURS WHO MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN APPLYING FOR MEDICAL**  
11 **CANNABIS GROWER, PROCESSOR, OR DISPENSARY LICENSES; AND**

12                                   **(II)    MAY MAKE GRANTS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL AND**  
13 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO TRAIN AND ASSIST SMALL, MINORITY,**  
14 **AND WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS SEEKING TO BECOME**  
15 **LICENSED AS MEDICAL CANNABIS GROWERS, PROCESSORS, OR DISPENSARIES.**

16                                   **(2)    THE OUTREACH REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS**  
17 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

18                                   **(I)     DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS WITH:**

19                                   **1.     TRADITIONAL MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS IN**  
20 **THE STATE AND SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS, INCLUDING HISTORICALLY BLACK**  
21 **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;**

22                                   **2.     TRADE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING MINORITY**  
23 **AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES; AND**

24                                   **3.     THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY,**  
25 **AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS;**

26                                   **(II)    ESTABLISHING AND CONDUCTING TRAINING PROGRAMS**  
27 **FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY;**

28                                   **(III)   DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE LICENSING**  
29 **PROCESS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND DISPENSARIES**  
30 **THROUGH MEDIA DEMONSTRATED TO REACH LARGE NUMBERS OF MINORITY AND**

1 **WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS; AND**

2 **(IV) COLLABORATING WITH THE PARTNERS DESCRIBED IN ITEM**  
3 **(I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO ENSURE THAT OUTREACH IS APPROPRIATELY**  
4 **TARGETED.**

5 **(G) THE COMMISSION SHALL PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,**  
6 **LICENSING, AND REGULATION TO IDENTIFY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN**  
7 **THE MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY FOR JOB SEEKERS, DISLOCATED WORKERS, AND**  
8 **EX-OFFENDERS.**

9 13-3303.

10 (a) The Commission consists of the following [16] **NINE** members:

11 (1) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee; [and

12 (2) The following 15 members, appointed by the Governor:

13 (i) Two members of the public who support the use of cannabis for  
14 medical purposes and who are or were patients who found relief from the use of medical  
15 cannabis;

16 (ii) One member of the public designated by the Maryland Chapter  
17 of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence;

18 (iii) Three physicians licensed in the State;

19 (iv) One nurse licensed in the State who has experience in hospice  
20 care, nominated by a State research institution or trade association;

21 (v) One pharmacist licensed in the State, nominated by a State  
22 research institution or trade association;

23 (vi) One scientist who has experience in the science of cannabis,  
24 nominated by a State research institution;

25 (vii) One representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'  
26 Association;

27 (viii) One representative of law enforcement;

28 (ix) An attorney who is knowledgeable about medical cannabis laws  
29 in the United States;

30 (x) An individual with experience in horticulture, recommended by

1 the Department of Agriculture;

2 (xi) One representative of the University of Maryland Extension; and

3 (xii) One representative of the Office of the Comptroller]

4 (2) FIVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE  
5 ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE;

6 (3) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF  
7 THREE INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

8 (4) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF  
9 THREE INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
10 DELEGATES; AND

11 (5) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM EITHER OF  
12 THE TWO LISTS DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

13 (B) (1) AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL:

14 (I) BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD;

15 (II) BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE WHO HAS RESIDED IN THE  
16 STATE FOR AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 5 YEARS;

17 (III) BE A QUALIFIED VOTER OF THE STATE; AND

18 (IV) HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE:

19 1. AS AN EXECUTIVE WITH FIDUCIARY  
20 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A LARGE ORGANIZATION OR FOUNDATION;

21 2. IN AN ACADEMIC FIELD RELATING TO HEALTH,  
22 AGRICULTURE, OR FINANCE; OR

23 3. AS A PROFESSIONAL IN A PROFESSION RELATING TO  
24 HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, OR FINANCE.

25 (2) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT:

26 (I) HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT FINANCIAL, OWNERSHIP, OR  
27 MANAGEMENT INTEREST, INCLUDING OWNERSHIP OF ANY STOCKS, BONDS, OR  
28 OTHER SIMILAR FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, IN ANY STATE LICENSED MEDICAL

1 CANNABIS GROWER, PROCESSOR, OR DISPENSARY;

2 (II) HAVE AN OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP TO A PERSON WHO  
3 HOLDS A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

4 (III) BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OF STATE OR LOCAL  
5 GOVERNMENT;

6 (IV) RECEIVE OR SHARE IN, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE  
7 RECEIPTS OR PROCEEDS OF ANY STATE LICENSED MEDICAL CANNABIS GROWER,  
8 PROCESSOR, OR DISPENSARY; OR

9 (V) HAVE A BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN ANY CONTRACT FOR THE  
10 MANUFACTURE OR SALE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS OR THE PROVISION OF ANY  
11 INDEPENDENT CONSULTING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH ANY MEDICAL  
12 CANNABIS LICENSE.

13 (3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL  
14 AND STATE LAW, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE  
15 RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

16 (4) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL FILE A FINANCIAL  
17 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE  
18 WITH TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.

19 [(b)] (C) (1) The term of a member is 4 years.

20 (2) The terms of the APPOINTED members are staggered as required by  
21 the terms provided for members on [October 1, 2013] JUNE 1, 2018.

22 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is  
23 appointed and qualifies.

24 (4) A member may not serve more than three consecutive full terms.

25 (5) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the  
26 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

27 [(c)] (D) The Governor shall designate the chair from among the members of the  
28 Commission.

29 [(d)] (E) A majority of the full authorized membership of the Commission is a  
30 quorum.

31 [(e)] (F) (1) [A] AN APPOINTED member of the Commission IS ENTITLED



1 TO:

2 [(1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but]

3 (I) THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE  
4 COMMISSION; AND

5 (II) REIMBURSEMENT FOR REASONABLE EXPENSES:

6 1. INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE  
7 COMMISSION MEMBER'S DUTIES; AND

8 2. AS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION.

9 (2) AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE PAID  
10 ONCE EVERY 2 WEEKS.

11 [(2)] (3) [Is] THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
12 DESIGNEE, IS entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel  
13 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

14 (G) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FOR  
15 JUST CAUSE.

16 [(f)] (H) (1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
17 THE Commission may employ a staff, including contractual staff, in accordance with the  
18 State budget.

19 (2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
20 THE COMMISSION WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

21 [(g)] (I) The Commission may set reasonable fees to cover the costs of operating  
22 the Commission.

23 [(h)] (J) (1) There is a Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission  
24 Fund.

25 (2) The Commission shall administer the Fund.

26 (3) The Fund is a special [continuing], nonlapsing fund that is not subject  
27 to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

28 (4) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
29 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

1 (5) The Fund shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as other  
2 State funds, and any investment earnings shall be retained to the credit of the Fund.

3 (6) The Fund shall be subject to an audit by the Office of Legislative Audits  
4 as provided for in § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

5 (7) The Comptroller shall pay out money from the Fund as directed by the  
6 Commission.

7 (8) The Fund consists of:

8 (i) Any money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

9 (ii) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit  
10 of the Fund, in accordance with any conditions adopted by the Commission for the  
11 acceptance of donations or gifts to the Fund; and

12 (iii) **[Any] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 13-3303.1 OF THIS**  
13 **SUBTITLE, ANY** fees collected by the Commission under this subtitle.

14 (9) No part of the Fund may revert or be credited to:

15 (i) The General Fund of the State; or

16 (ii) Any other special fund of the State.

17 (10) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the  
18 State budget.

19 **13-3303.1.**

20 (A) **IN THIS SECTION, “COMPASSIONATE USE FUND” MEANS THE NATALIE**  
21 **M. LAPRADE MEDICAL CANNABIS COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.**

22 (B) **THERE IS A NATALIE M. LAPRADE MEDICAL CANNABIS**  
23 **COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.**

24 (C) (1) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

25 (I) **ADMINISTER THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND; AND**

26 (II) **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, SET**  
27 **FEES IN AN AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE REVENUES FOR THE PURPOSES OF**  
28 **THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.**

29 (2) **THE COMMISSION MAY NOT IMPOSE THE FEES ESTABLISHED**

1 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON A LICENSED MEDICAL  
2 CANNABIS GROWER, PROCESSOR, OR DISPENSARY DURING THE 2 YEARS  
3 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PREAPPROVAL OF THE LICENSEE FOR A LICENSE  
4 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

5 (D) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND IS TO PROVIDE  
6 ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS FOR INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND  
7 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
8 MARYLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

9 (E) (1) THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING  
10 FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND  
11 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

12 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE COMPASSIONATE USE  
13 FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE  
14 COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.

15 (3) THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND  
16 REINVESTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS, AND ANY INVESTMENT  
17 EARNINGS SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT OF THE COMPASSIONATE USE  
18 FUND.

19 (4) THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN  
20 AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AS PROVIDED FOR IN § 2-1220 OF  
21 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

22 (5) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL PAY OUT MONEY FROM THE  
23 COMPASSIONATE USE FUND AS DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

24 (F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2018, THE COMMISSION, IN  
25 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL  
26 ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,  
27 ON:

28 (1) THE REVENUES THE COMMISSION ANTICIPATES ARE NECESSARY  
29 TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (I) OF THIS SECTION;

30 (2) THE AMOUNT OF FEES AND THE LICENSEES ON WHICH THOSE  
31 FEES SHALL BE ASSESSED IN ORDER TO GENERATE THE NECESSARY REVENUES;

32 (3) THE USE OF ANY OTHER FUNDING MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT  
33 THE PROGRAM; AND

1           **(4) ANY ANTICIPATED SAVINGS IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS FOR**  
2 **THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE**  
3 **PROVISION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

4           **(G) NO PART OF THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND MAY REVERT OR BE**  
5 **CREDITED TO:**

6           **(1) THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE; OR**

7           **(2) ANY OTHER SPECIAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

8           **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND MAY BE MADE**  
9 **ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

10           **(I) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION,**  
11 **SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ALLOW ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE**  
12 **MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR IN THE VETERANS**  
13 **ADMINISTRATION MARYLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO:**

14                   **(I) OBTAIN MEDICAL CANNABIS FROM A LICENSED**  
15 **DISPENSARY AT NO COST OR A REDUCED COST; AND**

16                   **(II) REIMBURSE A LICENSED DISPENSARY FOR THE COST OF**  
17 **THE MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSED TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE**  
18 **PROGRAM FROM THE COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.**

19           **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT**  
20 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

21 13-3305.

22           On or before January 1 each year, the Commission shall report to the Governor and,  
23 in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on  
24 [providers]:

25           **(1) PROVIDERS certified under this subtitle; AND**

26           **(2) THE DEMAND, BY CONDITION TREATED, AND AVERAGE**  
27 **CONSUMER PRICE FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCTS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE**  
28 **WITH THIS SUBTITLE.**

29 13-3305.1.

30           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “OWNER” INCLUDES ANY TYPE OF OWNER OR**

1 BENEFICIARY OF A BUSINESS ENTITY, INCLUDING AN OFFICER, A DIRECTOR, A  
2 PRINCIPAL EMPLOYEE, A PARTNER, AN INVESTOR, A STOCKHOLDER, OR A  
3 BENEFICIAL OWNER OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY AND, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER  
4 PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON HAVING ANY OWNERSHIP INTEREST  
5 REGARDLESS OF THE PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST.

6 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A  
7 CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER OR A SECRETARY OF A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT OF THE  
8 EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT:

9 (1) BE AN OWNER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF ANY BUSINESS ENTITY THAT  
10 HOLDS A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR

11 (2) HAVE AN OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP TO A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT  
12 HOLDS A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

13 (C) A CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER OR A SECRETARY OF A PRINCIPAL  
14 DEPARTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT MAY  
15 REMAIN AN OWNER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HOLDS A LICENSE  
16 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER OR SECRETARY WAS AN  
17 OWNER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
18 OFFICER'S ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OR THE SECRETARY'S APPOINTMENT.

19 13-3305.2.

20 THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CERTIFICATION AGENCY AS  
21 DEFINED IN § 14-301 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE  
22 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, AND  
23 THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL:

24 (1) EVALUATE A STUDY OF THE MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY AND  
25 MARKET TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A COMPELLING INTEREST TO  
26 IMPLEMENT REMEDIAL MEASURES, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATE  
27 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE  
28 STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE OR A SIMILAR PROGRAM, TO ASSIST  
29 MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN THE MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY;

30 (2) EVALUATE RACE-NEUTRAL PROGRAMS OR OTHER METHODS  
31 THAT MAY BE USED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF MINORITY AND WOMEN APPLICANTS  
32 AND MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
33 MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY; AND

34 (3) SUBMIT EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
35 TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO IMPLEMENT

1 **REMEDIAL MEASURES, IF NECESSARY AND TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY STATE**  
2 **AND FEDERAL LAW, BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY EVALUATED UNDER**  
3 **ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION.**

4 13–3306.

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

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

8 (ii) Dispensaries licensed by the Commission under this subtitle;

9 (iii) Qualifying patients and caregivers; and

10 (iv) Independent testing laboratories registered with the  
11 Commission under this subtitle.

12 (2) (i) [Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the]  
13 **THE** Commission may license no more than [15] **20** medical cannabis growers.

14 (ii) **1.** [Beginning June 1, 2018, the] **SUBJECT TO**  
15 **SUBSUBPARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER**  
16 **1, 2028, THE** Commission [may issue] **SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**  
17 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON** the  
18 number of licenses necessary to meet the demand for medical cannabis by qualifying  
19 patients and caregivers issued identification cards under this subtitle in an affordable,  
20 accessible, secure, and efficient manner.

21 **2. THE COMMISSION MAY NOT SUBMIT THE REPORT**  
22 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH BEFORE**  
23 **DECEMBER 1, 2024.**

24 **3. BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE**  
25 **DECEMBER 1, 2028, THE COMMISSION MAY SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER**  
26 **SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH ONLY IF THE COMMISSION FIRST**  
27 **OBTAINS THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE.**

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

31 (iv) The Commission may not issue more than one medical cannabis  
32 grower license to each applicant.

33 (v) A grower shall pay an application fee in an amount to be

1 determined by the Commission consistent with this subtitle.

2 (3) The Commission shall set standards for licensure as a medical cannabis  
3 grower to ensure public safety and safe access to medical cannabis, which may include a  
4 requirement for the posting of security.

5 (4) Each medical cannabis grower agent shall:

6 (i) Be registered with the Commission before the **MEDICAL**  
7 **CANNABIS GROWER** agent may volunteer or work for a licensed grower; and

8 (ii) Obtain a State and national criminal history records check in  
9 accordance with § 13-3312 of this subtitle.

10 (5) (i) A licensed grower shall apply to the Commission for a  
11 registration card for each **MEDICAL CANNABIS** grower agent by submitting the name,  
12 address, and date of birth of the agent.

13 (ii) 1. Within 1 business day after a **MEDICAL CANNABIS**  
14 grower agent ceases to be associated with a grower, the grower shall:

15 A. Notify the Commission; and

16 B. Return the **MEDICAL CANNABIS** grower agent's  
17 registration card to the Commission.

18 2. On receipt of a notice described in subsubparagraph 1A of  
19 this subparagraph, the Commission shall:

20 A. Immediately revoke the registration card of the **MEDICAL**  
21 **CANNABIS** grower agent; and

22 B. If the registration card was not returned to the  
23 Commission, notify the Department of State Police.

24 (iii) The Commission may [not] register a person who has been  
25 convicted of a felony drug offense as a **MEDICAL CANNABIS** grower agent **UNLESS:**

26 **1. WITHIN THE 7-YEAR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY**  
27 **PRECEDING THE DATE ON WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION**  
28 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE INDIVIDUAL WAS CONVICTED**  
29 **OF THE OFFENSE OR SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE SENTENCE FOR THE**  
30 **OFFENSE, INCLUDING PROBATION, THAT WAS IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION; OR**

31 **2. THE COMMISSION FINDS A SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO**  
32 **DENY THE REGISTRATION.**

1 (6) (i) A medical cannabis grower license is valid for [4] 6 years on  
2 initial licensure.

3 (ii) A medical cannabis grower license is valid for [2] 4 years on  
4 renewal.

5 (7) An application to operate as a medical cannabis grower may be  
6 submitted in paper or electronic form.

7 (8) (i) The Commission shall encourage licensing medical cannabis  
8 growers that grow strains of cannabis, including strains with high cannabidiol content,  
9 with demonstrated success in alleviating symptoms of specific diseases or conditions.

10 (ii) The Commission shall encourage licensing medical cannabis  
11 growers that prepare medical cannabis in a range of routes of administration.

12 (9) (i) The Commission shall:

13 1. [Actively] **TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY FEDERAL**  
14 **AND STATE LAW, ACTIVELY** seek to achieve racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity when  
15 licensing medical cannabis growers; and

16 2. Encourage applicants who qualify as a minority business  
17 enterprise, as defined in § 14–301 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, **OR WHO**  
18 **ARE SMALL, MINORITY, OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR**  
19 **LICENSURE AS MEDICAL CANNABIS GROWERS.**

20 (ii) Beginning June 1, [2016] **2018**, a grower licensed under this  
21 subtitle to operate as a medical cannabis grower shall report annually to the Commission  
22 on [the minority owners and]:

23 1. **THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNERS OF**  
24 **THE GROWER;**

25 2. **THE OWNERSHIP INTEREST OF ANY MINORITY AND**  
26 **WOMEN OWNERS OF THE GROWER; AND**

27 3. **THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN** employees of  
28 the grower.

29 (10) An entity seeking licensure as a medical cannabis grower shall meet  
30 local zoning and planning requirements.

31 13–3307.



1 (a) A dispensary shall be licensed by the Commission.

2 (c) (1) The Commission shall:

3 [(1)] (I) Establish an application review process for granting dispensary  
4 licenses in which applications are reviewed, evaluated, and ranked based on criteria  
5 established by the Commission; [and]

6 [(2)] (II) [Actively] **TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY FEDERAL AND**  
7 **STATE LAW, ACTIVELY** seek to achieve racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity when  
8 licensing dispensaries; **AND**

9 (III) **ENCOURAGE APPLICANTS WHO QUALIFY AS A MINORITY**  
10 **BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, AS DEFINED IN § 14-301 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND**  
11 **PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, OR WHO ARE SMALL, MINORITY, OR WOMEN-OWNED**  
12 **BUSINESS ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR LICENSURE AS DISPENSARIES.**

13 (2) **BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2018, A DISPENSARY LICENSED UNDER THIS**  
14 **SUBTITLE SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION ON:**

15 (I) **THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNERS OF THE**  
16 **DISPENSARY;**

17 (II) **THE OWNERSHIP INTEREST OF ANY MINORITY AND WOMEN**  
18 **OWNERS OF THE DISPENSARY; AND**

19 (III) **THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN EMPLOYEES OF**  
20 **THE DISPENSARY.**

21 13-3308.

22 (d) The Commission may [not] register an individual who has been convicted of a  
23 felony drug offense as a dispensary agent **UNLESS:**

24 (1) **WITHIN THE 7-YEAR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE**  
25 **DATE ON WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION UNDER SUBSECTION**  
26 **(B) OF THIS SECTION, THE INDIVIDUAL WAS CONVICTED OF THE OFFENSE OR**  
27 **SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE SENTENCE FOR THE OFFENSE, INCLUDING**  
28 **PROBATION, THAT WAS IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION; OR**

29 (2) **THE COMMISSION FINDS A SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO DENY THE**  
30 **REGISTRATION.**

31 13-3309.

1 (a) A processor shall be licensed by the Commission.

2 (c) **(1) THE COMMISSION MAY LICENSE NO MORE THAN 20 PROCESSORS.**

3 **(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS**  
4 **PARAGRAPH, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2028, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT**  
5 **TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE**  
6 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE NUMBER OF LICENSES NECESSARY TO MEET THE**  
7 **DEMAND FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS BY QUALIFYING PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS**  
8 **ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARDS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IN AN AFFORDABLE,**  
9 **ACCESSIBLE, SECURE, AND EFFICIENT MANNER.**

10 **(II) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT SUBMIT THE REPORT**  
11 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH BEFORE DECEMBER 1,**  
12 **2024.**

13 **(III) BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE DECEMBER 1,**  
14 **2028, THE COMMISSION MAY SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER**  
15 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH ONLY IF THE COMMISSION FIRST OBTAINS**  
16 **THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE.**

17 **(3) The Commission shall establish an application review process for**  
18 **granting processor licenses in which applications are reviewed, evaluated, and ranked**  
19 **based on criteria established by the Commission.**

20 **(4) (I) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

21 **1. TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE**  
22 **LAW, ACTIVELY SEEK TO ACHIEVE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY**  
23 **WHEN LICENSING PROCESSORS; AND**

24 **2. ENCOURAGE APPLICANTS WHO QUALIFY AS A**  
25 **MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, AS DEFINED IN § 14-301 OF THE STATE FINANCE**  
26 **AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, OR WHO ARE SMALL, MINORITY, OR WOMEN-OWNED**  
27 **BUSINESS ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR LICENSURE AS PROCESSORS.**

28 **(II) BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2018, A PROCESSOR LICENSED UNDER**  
29 **THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION ON:**

30 **1. THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNERS OF**  
31 **THE PROCESSOR;**

32 **2. THE OWNERSHIP INTEREST OF ANY MINORITY AND**

1 **WOMEN OWNERS OF THE PROCESSOR; AND**

2 **3. THE NUMBER OF MINORITY AND WOMEN EMPLOYEES**  
3 **OF THE PROCESSOR.**

4 (d) (1) A processor license is valid for [4] **6** years on initial licensure.

5 (2) A processor license is valid for [2] **4** years on renewal.

6 13–3310.

7 (d) The Commission may [not] register an individual who has been convicted of a  
8 felony drug offense as a processor agent **UNLESS:**

9 **(1) WITHIN THE 7-YEAR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE**  
10 **DATE ON WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION UNDER SUBSECTION**  
11 **(B) OF THIS SECTION, THE INDIVIDUAL WAS CONVICTED OF THE OFFENSE OR**  
12 **SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE SENTENCE FOR THE OFFENSE, INCLUDING**  
13 **PROBATION, THAT WAS IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION; OR**

14 **(2) THE COMMISSION FINDS A SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO DENY THE**  
15 **REGISTRATION.**

16 13–3316.

17 [On or before September 15, 2014, the] **THE** Commission shall adopt regulations to  
18 implement the provisions of this subtitle.

19 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

20 6–226.

21 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
22 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
23 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
24 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
25 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
26 Fund of the State.

27 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
28 to the following funds:

29 101. the Advance Directive Program Fund; [and]

30 102. the Make Office Vacancies Extinct Matching Fund; **AND**

1                                   **103. THE NATALIE M. LAPRADE MEDICAL CANNABIS**  
2 **COMPASSIONATE USE FUND.**

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to implement the change in  
4 the composition of the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission under § 13–3303  
5 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the terms of all members  
6 serving on the Commission before the effective date of this Act shall terminate June 1,  
7 2018.

8           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General  
9 Assembly that, in filling the five positions provided for in § 13–3303(a)(2) of the Health –  
10 General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the Governor may reappoint a member  
11 of the Commission who served before of the effective date of this Act in order to ensure a  
12 level of continuity within the membership of the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis  
13 Commission.

14           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the eight initial  
15 members of the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission provided for in §  
16 13–3303(a)(2) through (5) of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this  
17 Act, shall expire as follows:

- 18                   (1)     two members in 2020;
- 19                   (2)     two members in 2021;
- 20                   (3)     two members in 2022; and
- 21                   (4)     two members in 2023.

22           SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Natalie M. LaPrade  
23 Medical Cannabis Commission may not review, evaluate, or rank an application for a  
24 license under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article or award any additional  
25 licenses under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article until the regulations  
26 required under § 13–3305.2 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this  
27 Act, have been adopted.

28           SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, following the adoption of any  
29 regulations in accordance with § 13–3305.2 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by  
30 Section 1 of this Act, the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission:

31                   (1)     shall accept new applications for licensure under Title 13, Subtitle 33  
32 of the Health – General Article in addition to the applications that the Commission  
33 previously received;

34                   (2)     shall allow a person who previously applied for licensure under Title  
35 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article to amend and resubmit the person’s

1 application or to withdraw the person's application entirely;

2 (3) may waive the initial application fee for a person who previously  
3 applied for licensure under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article, but may  
4 charge the person a reasonable fee for the submission of an amended application; and

5 (4) shall resume reviewing, evaluating, and ranking applications for  
6 licensure under Title 13, Subtitle 33 of the Health – General Article in accordance with the  
7 evaluation system adopted in regulation and awarding licenses under Title 13, Subtitle 33  
8 of the Health – General Article.

9 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2019,  
10 the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, in consultation with the Maryland  
11 Department of Health, shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246  
12 of the State Government Article, on the treatment of an opioid use disorder by using  
13 medical cannabis.

14 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any remedial measures  
15 adopted in regulation in accordance with § 13–3305.2 of the Health – General Article, as  
16 enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not  
17 be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to a medical cannabis grower,  
18 processor, or dispensary awarded Stage One pre-approval before the effective date of this  
19 Act.

20 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or  
21 the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a  
22 court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other  
23 application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
24 and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

25 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
26 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
27 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
28 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
29 enacted.