

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 1030

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee; Health Policy Committee; and Senators Bradley, Bean, and Brandes

SUBJECT: Low-THC Cannabis

DATE: May 1, 2014

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1 – 329511** (body with title)

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1** names the act, the “Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014.” The amendment changes the definition of low-THC cannabis to mean a plant of the genus *Cannabis*, the dried flowers of which contain 0.8 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and more than 10 percent of cannabidiol (CBD) weight for weight; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant or its seeds or resin that is dispensed only from a dispensing organization.

The amendment expands who may be ordered low-THC cannabis under the act to include a patient suffering from cancer. As a condition of prescribing low-THC cannabis, the physician must determine that no other satisfactory treatment options exist and obtain a voluntary informed consent. The amendment does not include the Senate’s requirement that the physician must have treated the patient for at least 2 months and does not provide for the issuance of a patient identification card.

Criminal misdemeanor penalties are created for a physician who orders low-THC cannabis for a patient without a reasonable belief that the patient is suffering from a qualifying condition and for any person who fraudulently represents himself or herself as having a qualifying condition for the purpose of obtaining an order for low-THC cannabis.

A dispensing organization is required to employ a medical director, who must be a physician and have successfully completed a course and examination that encompasses appropriate safety procedures and knowledge of low-THC cannabis. One dispensing organization is authorized in northwest Florida, northeast Florida, central Florida, southeast Florida and southwest Florida, for a total of five statewide. The Senate bill provided for up to four dispensing organizations. Additional criteria for approval as a dispensing organization include: possessing a certificate of registration for the cultivations of more than 400,000 plants that is issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, be operated by a nurseryman, have been operating as a

registered nursery in this state for at least 30 years, and provide certified financials. Upon approval, a dispensing organization must post a \$5 million performance bond.

The amendment excludes “low-THC cannabis from the definition of cannabis in s. 893.02, F.S.

Additional emphasis is placed on research in the amendment. Medical centers that are recognized as a Cancer Center of Excellence are authorized to conduct research on CBD and low-THC cannabis. The Department of Health’s Office of Compassionate Use is directed to enhance access to investigational new drugs for Florida patients through approved clinical treatment plans or studies, with specific authorities to accomplish this directive. One million dollars is appropriated in nonrecurring general revenue to the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program for research of CBD and its effect on intractable childhood epilepsy.