

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to medicinal cannabis research and
3 education; creating s. 1004.4351, F.S.; providing a
4 short title; providing legislative intent; defining
5 terms; establishing the Coalition for Medicinal
6 Cannabis Research and Education within the H. Lee
7 Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.;
8 providing a purpose for the coalition; establishing
9 the Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education Board to
10 direct the operations of the coalition; providing for
11 the appointment of board members; providing for terms
12 of office, reimbursement for certain expenses, and the
13 conduct of meetings of the board; authorizing the
14 board to appoint a coalition director; prescribing the
15 duties of the coalition director; requiring the board
16 to advise specified entities and officials regarding
17 medicinal cannabis research and education in this
18 state; requiring the board to annually adopt a
19 Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education Plan;
20 providing requirements for the plan; requiring the
21 board to issue an annual report to the Governor and
22 the Legislature by a specified date; specifying
23 responsibilities of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
24 and Research Institute, Inc.; providing an effective
25 date.

26 WHEREAS, cannabis, also known as marijuana, is produced
27 from the cannabis plant, which produces a resin containing
28 psychoactive compounds called cannabinoids, in addition to other
29 compounds found in plants, such as terpenes and flavonoids, and

30 WHEREAS, cannabis is a controlled substance and is
31 classified as a Schedule I agent, a drug with a high potential
32 for abuse, with no scientific evidence for medical use, and

33 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has
34 not approved the use of cannabis as a treatment for any medical
35 condition, and

36 WHEREAS, clinical trials conducted on medicinal cannabis
37 are limited, and researchers must file an Investigational New
38 Drug application with the United States Food and Drug
39 Administration, obtain a Schedule I license from the United
40 States Drug Enforcement Administration, and obtain approval from
41 the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct clinical drug
42 research with cannabis in the United States, and

43 WHEREAS, due to the limited number of clinical studies on
44 the medicinal use of marijuana, there is little or no unbiased
45 data available to support the determination of safe and
46 effective dosages of marijuana for specific illnesses, and

47 WHEREAS, a significant number of Americans are seeking
48 relief from pain and other medical symptoms through the use of
49 cannabis, including cancer patients, patients suffering from
50 refractory pain, and pediatric patients with refractory

51 | epilepsy, and

52 | WHEREAS, the electorate of Florida has enshrined in the
53 | State Constitution the right to obtain and use marijuana for
54 | medicinal purposes, NOW, THEREFORE,

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56 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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58 | Section 1. Section 1004.4351, Florida Statutes, is created
59 | to read:

60 | 1004.4351 Medicinal cannabis research and education.—

61 | (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section shall be known and may be
62 | cited as the "Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education Act."

63 | (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature finds that:

64 | (a) The present state of knowledge concerning the use of
65 | cannabis to alleviate pain and treat illnesses is limited
66 | because permission to perform clinical studies on cannabis is
67 | difficult to obtain, with access to research-grade cannabis so
68 | restricted that little or no unbiased studies have been
69 | performed.

70 | (b) Under the State Constitution, cannabis is available
71 | for the treatment of certain debilitating medical conditions.

72 | (c) Additional clinical studies are needed to ensure that
73 | the residents of this state obtain the correct dosing,
74 | formulation, route, modality, frequency, quantity, and quality
75 | of cannabis for specific illnesses.

76 (d) An effective medicinal cannabis research and education
77 program would mobilize the scientific, educational, and medical
78 resources that presently exist in this state to determine the
79 appropriate and best use of cannabis to treat illness.

80 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, unless the
81 context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

82 (a) "Board" means the Medicinal Cannabis Research and
83 Education Board.

84 (b) "Coalition" means the Coalition for Medicinal Cannabis
85 Research and Education.

86 (c) "Marijuana" or "medicinal cannabis" has the same
87 meaning as provided in s. 29, Art. X of the State Constitution.

88 (4) COALITION FOR MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH AND
89 EDUCATION.—

90 (a) There is established within the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer
91 Center and Research Institute, Inc., the Coalition for Medicinal
92 Cannabis Research and Education. The purpose of the coalition is
93 to conduct rigorous scientific research; provide education;
94 disseminate research; and to guide policy for the adoption of a
95 statewide policy on ordering and dosing practices for the
96 medicinal use of cannabis. The coalition shall be physically
97 located at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
98 Institute, Inc.

99 (b) The Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education Board is
100 established to direct the operations of the coalition. The board

101 shall be composed of seven members appointed by the chief
102 executive officer of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and
103 Research Institute, Inc. Board members must have experience in a
104 variety of scientific and medical fields, including, but not
105 limited to, oncology, neurology, psychology, pediatrics,
106 nutrition, and addiction. Members shall be appointed to 4-year
107 terms and may be reappointed to serve additional terms. The
108 chair shall be elected by the board from among its members to
109 serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet no less than
110 semiannually, at the call of the chair or, in his or her absence
111 or incapacity, the vice chair. Four members constitute a quorum.
112 A majority vote of the members present is required for all
113 actions of the board. The board may prescribe, amend, and repeal
114 a charter governing the manner in which it conducts its
115 business. A board member shall serve without compensation but is
116 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses by the coalition
117 or the organization he or she represents in accordance with s.
118 112.061.

119 (c) The coalition shall be administered by a coalition
120 director who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of
121 the board. The coalition director shall, subject to the approval
122 of the board:

- 123 1. Propose a budget for the coalition.
124 2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers,
125 and other appropriate personnel in accordance with the

126 coalition's charter.

127 3. Identify and prioritize the research to be conducted by
128 the coalition.

129 4. Prepare the Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education
130 Plan for submission to the board.

131 5. Apply for grants to obtain funding for research
132 conducted by the coalition.

133 6. Perform other duties as determined by the board.

134 (d) The board shall advise the Board of Governors, the
135 State Surgeon General, the Governor, and the Legislature with
136 respect to medicinal cannabis research and education in this
137 state. The board shall explore methods of implementing and
138 enforcing medicinal cannabis laws in relation to cancer control,
139 research, treatment, and education.

140 (e) The board shall annually adopt a plan for medicinal
141 cannabis research, known as the "Medicinal Cannabis Research and
142 Education Plan," which must be in accordance with state law and
143 coordinate with existing programs in this state. The plan must
144 include recommendations for the coordination and integration of
145 medical, nursing, paramedical, community, and other resources
146 connected with the treatment of debilitating medical conditions,
147 research related to the treatment of such medical conditions,
148 and education.

149 (f) By February 15 of each year, the board shall issue a
150 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the

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151 Speaker of the House of Representatives on research projects,
152 community outreach initiatives, and future plans for the
153 coalition.

154 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER
155 AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.—The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
156 and Research Institute, Inc., shall allocate staff, information,
157 and assistance, as the coalition's budget permits, to assist the
158 board in fulfilling its responsibilities.

159 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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