

By Senator Galvano

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

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30 compounds found in plants, such as terpenes and flavonoids, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

56  
57 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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59 Section 1. Section 1004.4351, Florida Statutes, is created  
60 to read:

61 1004.4351 Medicinal cannabis research and education.—

62 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section shall be known and may be  
63 cited as the “Medicinal Cannabis Research and Education Act.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

83 (a) “Board” means the Medicinal Cannabis Research and  
84 Education Board.

85 (b) “Coalition” means the Coalition for Medicinal Cannabis  
86 Research and Education.

87 (c) “Marijuana” or “medicinal cannabis” has the same

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88 meaning as provided in s. 29, Art. X of the State Constitution.

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

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

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

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117 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses by the coalition  
118 or the organization he or she represents in accordance with s.  
119 112.061.

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

124 1. Propose a budget for the coalition.

125 2. Foster the collaboration of scientists, researchers, and  
126 other appropriate personnel in accordance with the coalition's  
127 charter.

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

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

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

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

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

141 (e) The board shall annually adopt a plan for medicinal  
142 cannabis research, known as the "Medicinal Cannabis Research and  
143 Education Plan," which must be in accordance with state law and  
144 coordinate with existing programs in this state. The plan must  
145 include recommendations for the coordination and integration of

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146 medical, nursing, paramedical, community, and other resources  
147 connected with the treatment of debilitating medical conditions,  
148 research related to the treatment of such medical conditions,  
149 and education.

150 (f) By February 15 of each year, the board shall issue a  
151 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
152 Speaker of the House of Representatives on research projects,  
153 community outreach initiatives, and future plans for the  
154 coalition.

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

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