

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 887](#)

TITLE: Medical Marijuana Use Registry Identification Cards for Veterans

SPONSOR(S): Valdés

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 974](#) (Truenow)

Committee References

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

18 Y, 0 N

[Health Care Budget](#)

[Health & Human Services](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill reduces the medical marijuana use registry identification card fee for an honorably discharged veteran from the current card fee of \$75 to \$15.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill has a negative fiscal impact on the Department of Health and no fiscal impact local government.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill reduces the [medical marijuana use registry](#) identification card fee for an honorably discharged veteran from the current card fee of \$75 to \$15 for the issuance, replacement, or renewal of the card. To obtain the reduced rate the applicant must provide proof of veteran status by including in their application a DD Form 214, a Department of Veterans Affairs or Uniformed Services identification card, or a Florida driver license with a veteran designation. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026 (Section [2](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill has an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on DOH. Currently, there are 931,959 qualified patients with active medical marijuana use registry identification cards. OMMU is statutorily authorized to charge a reasonable fee associated with the issuance, replacement, and renewal of identification cards. Pursuant to Rule 64-4.011 (5), F.A.C., the annual identification card fee is \$75. The number of veterans who hold active medical marijuana use registry identification cards is unknown; therefore, the amount of revenue reduction is unknown.

DOH estimates a projected loss of revenue of \$3,319,912 in FY 26-27; \$3,365,405 in FY 27-28; \$3,395,270 in FY 28-29; and \$3,414,633 in FY 29-30, which can be absorbed within current resources.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill will have a positive fiscal impact on veterans who will experience a \$60 reduction in the cost of the identification card under the bill.

STORAGE NAME: h0887a.HPP

DATE: 1/29/2026

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Marijuana for Medical Use

Section [381.986, F.S.](#), authorizes patients with any of the following debilitating medical conditions to obtain medical marijuana from Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC):

- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus
- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Crohn's disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated above

To obtain marijuana for medical use from a MMTC, and maintain the immunity from criminal prosecution, a patient must obtain a physician certification from a qualified physician¹ and an identification card from the Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU).

Physician Certification

To certify a patient for medical use of marijuana, a qualified physician must conduct a physical examination of the patient and determine that the patient has a qualifying medical condition and that medical marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks to the patient.² A qualified physician must be physically present in the same room when conducting the initial examination on a qualified patient.³ The physician must evaluate an existing patient at least once every 30 weeks before issuing a renewal physician certification.⁴ Under current law, the physician must conduct the in-person⁵ physical examination of the patient to issue the initial certification and may conduct any subsequent examinations for renewal certifications through telehealth.⁶

After diagnosing a patient with a qualifying condition, a qualified physician must review and enter certain data into the medical marijuana use registry. The physician must review the medical marijuana use registry and confirm that the patient does not have an active physician certification from another qualified physician.⁷ The physician must then register as the issuer of the physician certification for the named qualified patient in the medical marijuana use registry and enter into the registry the contents of the physician certification, including the patient's qualifying condition, the dosage, the amount and forms of marijuana authorized, and any types of marijuana delivery devices needed by the patient.⁸

Medical Marijuana Use Registry Identification Card

¹ To certify patients for medical use of marijuana, a physician must hold an active, unrestricted license as an allopathic physician under chapter 458 or as an osteopathic physician under chapter 459 and comply with certain physician education requirements. See [ss. 381.986\(1\)\(m\), F.S.](#) and [381.986\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

² S. [381.986, F.S.](#)

³ S. [381.986\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [381.986\(4\)\(g\), F.S.](#)

⁵ This means that the physician must be physically present and in the same room as the patient. S. [381.986\(4\)\(a\)1, F.S.](#)

⁶ S. [381.986, F.S.](#)

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

A qualified patient must have a physician certification in the [medical marijuana use registry](#) and have a valid medical marijuana use registry identification card to obtain medical marijuana and medical marijuana delivery devices from a MMTC. OMMU must issue medical marijuana use registry identification cards to qualified patients and caregivers who are residents of this state. The identification cards must be resistant to counterfeiting and tampering and must include, at a minimum, the following:

- The name, address, and date of birth of the qualified patient or caregiver;
- A full-face, passport-type, color photograph of the qualified patient or caregiver taken within the 90 days immediately preceding registration or the Florida driver license or Florida identification card photograph of the qualified patient or caregiver obtained directly from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- Identification as a qualified patient or a caregiver;
- The unique numeric identifier used for the qualified patient in the medical marijuana use registry;
- For a caregiver, the name and unique numeric identifier of the caregiver and the qualified patient or patients that the caregiver is assisting; and
- The expiration date of the identification card.

As of January 16, 2026, there were 931,959 qualified patients with active medical marijuana use registry identification cards.⁹ The Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) processes applications for identification cards within 5 business days of receipt of a complete application. OMMU is statutorily authorized to charge a reasonable fee associated with the issuance, replacement, and renewal of identification cards.¹⁰ Pursuant to Rule 64-4.011 (5), F.A.C., the annual application fee is \$75 and OMMU does not currently offer a reduction or waiver of this fee.

Veterans

Florida is home to 21 military installations¹¹ and 67,074 military personnel.¹² Florida also has the nation's third-largest veteran¹³ population with almost 1.4 million veterans.¹⁴ Many of these veterans are recently transitioned servicemembers.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has issued informational guidance for the use of medical marijuana by veterans:¹⁵

- Veterans will not be denied VA benefits because of marijuana use.
- Veterans are encouraged to discuss marijuana use with their VA providers.
- VA health care providers will record marijuana use in the Veteran's VA medical record in order to have the information available in treatment planning. As with all clinical information, this is part of the confidential medical record and protected under patient privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.
- VA clinicians may not recommend medical marijuana.

⁹ Office of Medical Marijuana Use Weekly Updates, January 16, 2026, DOH, Office of Medical Marijuana Use, available at https://knowthefactsmmj.com/wp-content/uploads/ommu_updates/2026/011626-OMMU-Update.pdf (last visited on January 18, 2026).

¹⁰ S. 381.986(7)(d), F.S.

¹¹ Florida Commerce, *Florida Commerce Awards \$2.6 Million to Support Florida's Military Base Communities and Military Missions*, Florida Commerce Press Releases, available at <https://www.floridajobs.org/news-center/DEO-Press/2025/10/31/floridacommerce-awards--2.6-million-to-support-florida-s-military-base-communities-and-military-missions> (last visited January 20, 2026).

¹² Office of the Secretary of Defense, Active Duty Master File, Reserve Common Components Personnel Data System (RCCPDS) File, Appropriated Fund (APF) Civilian Master File. Data as of September 30, 2025, available at <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports> (last visited January 20, 2026).
(last visited January 18, 2026).

¹³ [s. 1.01\(14\), F.S.](#), defines a "veteran" as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions, or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions. The definition in [s. 1.01\(14\), F.S.](#), is cited in numerous statutes, including [s. 117.265, F.S.](#), [265.003, F.S.](#), [292.055, F.S.](#), [295.02, F.S.](#), [295.07, F.S.](#), [295.187, F.S.](#), [295.188, F.S.](#), [296.02, F.S.](#), [296.08, F.S.](#), [296.33, F.S.](#), [296.36, F.S.](#), [409.1664, F.S.](#), [548.06, F.S.](#), [943.17, F.S.](#), and [1009.26, F.S.](#)

¹⁴ *Supra* Note 11

¹⁵ *VA and Marijuana – What Veterans need to know*, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/marijuana.asp> (last visited on January 18, 2026).

- VA clinicians may only prescribe medications that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for medical use. At present most products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), or other cannabinoids are not approved for this purpose by the FDA.
- VA clinicians may not complete paperwork/forms required for Veteran patients to participate in state-approved marijuana programs.
- VA pharmacies may not fill prescriptions for medical marijuana.
- VA will not pay for medical marijuana prescriptions from any source.
- VA scientists may conduct research on marijuana benefits and risks, and potential for abuse, under regulatory approval.
- The use or possession of marijuana is prohibited at all VA medical centers, locations and grounds. When you are on VA grounds it is federal law that is in force, not the laws of the state.
- Veterans who are VA employees are subject to drug testing under the terms of employment.

The number of veterans who hold active medical marijuana use registry identification cards is currently unknown.

BILL HISTORY				
COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee	18 Y, 0 N	12/29/2026	McElroy	Aderibigbe
Health Care Budget Subcommittee				
Health & Human Services Committee				