
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, among other things,
2 Act 230, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, established a legislative
3 oversight working group to develop and recommend legislation to
4 improve the medical cannabis dispensary system in the State to
5 ensure safe and legal access to medical cannabis for qualifying
6 patients. The working group is tasked with addressing issues
7 related to the medical cannabis dispensary program in the State,
8 including operations, edibles, and any issues the working group
9 finds relevant to the medical cannabis dispensary program.

10 The legislature further finds that one of the topics
11 considered by the working group was the potential for medical
12 cannabis to be reimbursable via health insurance. However,
13 because the issues surrounding the topic of insurance
14 reimbursement for medical cannabis are extremely complex, the
15 legislature concludes it is prudent to establish a separate
16 working group specifically tasked with addressing this topic.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
2 working group to address reimbursement for medical cannabis for
3 qualifying patients.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the medical cannabis
5 insurance reimbursement working group to address the
6 complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis
7 reimbursable by health insurance. The working group shall
8 explore options and make recommendations on the following
9 issues:

- 10 (1) Actions taken in other states;
- 11 (2) Potential parallel reimbursement models for other
12 types of non-prescription therapies;
- 13 (3) Associated liability issues for health plans;
- 14 (4) Potential impact on insurance premiums;
- 15 (5) Insurance riders for alternative therapies, which
16 could serve as a model for medical cannabis
17 reimbursement; and
- 18 (6) Other relevant issues that may arise, pursuant to the
19 discretion of the working group.

20 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
21 members:



- 1 (1) The chairs of the senate committee on commerce,
2 consumer protection, and health and house committee on
3 consumer protection and commerce, who shall serve as
4 chairs of the working group;
- 5 (2) The chair of the house committee on health and human
6 services;
- 7 (3) A member of the senate who is selected by the
8 president of the senate to serve on the working group;
- 9 (4) The insurance commissioner;
- 10 (5) The administrator of the department of human services,
11 med-QUEST division; and
- 12 (6) One representative each from the following:
 - 13 (A) Hawaii Medical Service Association;
 - 14 (B) Kaiser Permanente Hawaii;
 - 15 (C) AlohaCare; and
 - 16 (D) Hawaii Education Association for Licensed
17 Therapeutic Healthcare.
- 18 (c) The working group shall be officially convened at the
19 pleasure of the chairs of the working group, but no later than
20 August 1, 2018.

1 (d) The working group may request assistance and feedback
2 from subject matter experts, as needed, to enable the working
3 group to carry out its work.

4 (e) The working group shall provide periodic updates to
5 the legislature and shall make recommendations for any
6 legislative or administrative action the working group deems
7 appropriate to address issues surrounding insurance
8 reimbursement for medical cannabis. The working group shall
9 submit a final report, including recommendations for further
10 action, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
11 the convening of the regular session of 2019.

12 (f) The legislative reference bureau is requested to
13 provide staff, research, and drafting assistance to the working
14 group.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Medical Cannabis; Insurance Reimbursement; Working Group

Description:

Establishes the medical cannabis insurance reimbursement working group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance.

(HB2741 HD1)

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