

SENATE FILE _____

A BILL FOR An Act relating to the medical cannabis program, renaming the medical cannabidiol act, establishing a legal task force on federal issues, requiring reports, and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Iowa medical cannabis act. The legislative services agency shall designate chapter 124E of the Code as the “Iowa Medical Cannabis Act” and shall make all necessary conforming changes to the Code, including but not limited to chapter headings, section headings, and references to the chapter throughout the Code and in any other provision of law.

Section 2. Legal task force on federal issues established.

1. A legal task force on federal issues is established to assist the department of health and human services in navigating the legal issues related to federal interference with Iowa’s medical cannabis program under chapter 124E and to review and apply for exemptions from federal regulations to ensure full compliance of the state program while providing necessary protections for Iowa patients engaged in the program.
2. The task force shall consist of the following members: a. The attorney general or the attorney general’s designee. b. Two members appointed by the governor who are licensed attorneys with expertise in federal drug law and controlled substances regulation, including waivers or exemptions under the federal Controlled Substances Act. c. One member appointed by the president of the senate who is a licensed attorney with experience in state cannabis or health law. d. One member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives who is a licensed attorney with experience in state cannabis or health law. e. One member appointed by the Iowa state bar association with demonstrated expertise in federal-state conflicts involving controlled substances. f. One patient representative appointed by the governor who is or has been a registered participant in Iowa’s medical cannabis program. g. The director of the department of health and human services or the director’s designee, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.
3. The task force shall do all of the following: a. Review and analyze federal laws, regulations, and enforcement policies that may interfere with the implementation or operation of Iowa’s medical cannabis program. b. Review applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 21 U.S.C. § 822(d) and related waiver provisions, to identify pathways for exemptions or other relief for Iowa’s medical cannabis program. c. Provide legal guidance and recommendations to the department of health and human services and the general assembly regarding strategies to mitigate or resolve such federal interference while maintaining program integrity. d. Prepare and submit applications or petitions for federal exemptions or waivers on behalf of the state, as appropriate, to protect program operations and patient access. e. Develop recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes to achieve full compliance with federal requirements while preserving patient

protections and program effectiveness. f. Consult with the department of health and human services, the medical cannabis board, stakeholders, including program participants, manufacturers, dispensaries, and certifying health care practitioners, as appropriate.

4. The task force shall submit a preliminary report by January 15 following the effective date of this Act, and a final report by January 15 of the following year, to the governor and the general assembly detailing its findings, activities, any applications submitted, recommendations, and any proposed legislation. The final report shall include an assessment of ongoing federal risks to the program and patient access.

Section 3. Repeal. This Act is repealed effective December 31 of the calendar year in which the final report is due.

Section 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon enactment.