

A RESOLUTION

25-298

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2023

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to define the terms non-District resident and another jurisdiction, and to provide the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board with the authority to issue patient and caregiver registration cards at no cost.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Medical Cannabis Patient Access Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) The District currently permits non-District resident patients who are not enrolled in another jurisdiction’s medical cannabis program to participate in its medical cannabis program by registering as a non-resident cardholder. Patients from all 50 states have registered with the District as non-resident cardholders, and as of July 31, 2023, international patient visitors from 46 countries have registered with the District as non-resident cardholders.

(b) There is an immediate need to amend the definition of non-resident cardholder to clarify that the term “non-District resident” in the definition includes international patients who are visiting the District and to amend the definition of “qualifying patient” to include non-resident cardholders.

(c) The emergency legislation also defines the term “another jurisdiction” to clarify that this term is not just limited to the 50 states of the United States but means any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States.

(d) To eliminate barriers to access for qualifying patients in the medical cannabis program, there is also a need to permit the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board through rulemaking to make patient and caregiver registrations available at no cost.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Medical Cannabis Patient Access Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.