



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1467

S.P. 586

In Senate, April 5, 2023

**An Act to Establish the Maine Cannabis Research Committee and
Facilitate Research into Alternative Therapeutics**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, MATHIESON of Kittery, O'NEIL of Saco.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§31-C** is enacted to read:

3 **31-C.**

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 4 | <u>Health Care</u> | <u>Maine Cannabis Research Committee</u> | <u>\$1,000 after first</u> | <u>22 MRSA</u> |
| 5 | | | <u>6 meetings in a</u> | <u>§2700-F</u> |
| 6 | | | <u>calendar year and</u> | |
| 7 | | | <u>an additional</u> | |
| 8 | | | <u>\$1,000 after 6</u> | |
| 9 | | | <u>meetings in the</u> | |
| 10 | | | <u>same calendar</u> | |
| 11 | | | <u>year</u> | |

12 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA c. 607** is enacted to read:

13 **CHAPTER 607**

14 **CANNABIS RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

15 **§2700-F. Maine Cannabis Research Committee**

16 **1. Committee established as a public instrumentality.** The Maine Cannabis
17 Research Committee, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 31-C and
18 referred to in this section as "the committee," is established as a public body corporate and
19 politic and an incorporated public instrumentality of the State.

20 **2. Membership.** The committee consists of 7 individuals who must be residents of the
21 State and are appointed as follows:

22 A. Two medical providers as defined in section 2422, subsection 4-C who have over
23 the prior 2 years provided certification for the medical use of cannabis in accordance
24 with the process described under section 2423-B, one appointed by the President of the
25 Senate and one by the Speaker of the House;

26 B. Two registered caregivers as defined in section 2422, subsection 11, each of whom
27 has held a registration for at least 2 consecutive years and has provided care for patients
28 using at least 2 different modalities for introduction of cannabis into the body, one
29 appointed by the President of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House;

30 C. Two residents of the State who have been qualifying patients as defined in section
31 2422, subsection 9 for at least 3 years and who have experience using at least 2 different
32 modalities for introduction of cannabis into the body, one appointed by the President
33 of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House; and

34 D. One research professional employed by the University of Maine or other institution
35 of higher education in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

36 **3. Term.** Members are appointed to 4-year terms. If the appointing authority fails to
37 make an appointment prior to the expiration of a member's term, that member continues to
38 serve until the appointing authority makes an appointment for the remainder of that term.

1 If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a specified term, the appointing authority shall
2 appoint an individual to serve only the remainder of that term.

3 **4. Duties.** The duties of the committee include but are not limited to:

4 A. The creation of a grant application and review process for awarding grants under
5 section 2430, subsection 5, including a process for data collection and reporting;

6 B. The development and implementation of an annual 3rd-party-administered survey
7 of medical use qualifying patients as defined in section 2422, subsection 9, caregivers
8 as defined in section 2422, subsection 8-A, registered dispensaries as defined in section
9 2422, subsection 6 and other stakeholders that provides usage data and other useful
10 information to the public; and

11 C. The review of potential applications of complementary alternative medicines,
12 including psilocybin, ketamine and 3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, MDMA.

13 **5. Compensation of members.** Members are compensated in accordance with Title 5,
14 section 12004-I, subsection 31-C. Stipends are to be paid out of the Medical Use of
15 Cannabis Fund.

16 **6. Report.** The committee shall provide an annual report summarizing its activities by
17 January 15, 2024 and annually thereafter to the joint standing committees of the Legislature
18 having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and agriculture and forestry
19 matters.

20 **7. Staffing.** The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of
21 Cannabis Policy shall provide administrative support to the committee, including recording
22 of minutes, meeting organization, facilitation of communication among members,
23 conducting research and providing background information and data to the committee.

24 **Sec. 3. Initial appointments.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
25 22, section 2700-F, subsection 3, in the Maine Cannabis Research Committee, the member
26 appointed by the President of the Senate pursuant to Title 22, section 2700-F, subsection 2,
27 paragraph A serves for 2 years. The members of the committee appointed by the Speaker
28 of the House pursuant to Title 22, section 2700-F, subsection 2, paragraphs B and C serve
29 for 2 years. All appointments thereafter must be for 4-year terms.

30 SUMMARY

31 This bill establishes the Maine Cannabis Research Committee. The committee consists
32 of 7 members, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House for
33 4-year terms, and includes 2 medical providers, 2 registered caregivers, one research
34 professional and 2 patients. The duties of the committee include the creation of a grant
35 application and review process for awarding of medical cannabis funds, including a process
36 for data collection and reporting, the implementation of an annual 3rd-party-administered
37 survey for patients, providers and caregivers that provides data to the public, the review of
38 potential applications of other complementary alternative medicines, including psilocybin,
39 ketamine and 3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, MDMA. Members are entitled to
40 compensation of \$1,000 after the first 6 committee meetings in a calendar year and an
41 additional \$1,000 after 6 additional meetings in the same calendar year, to be paid out of
42 the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund. The committee must provide an annual report
43 summarizing its activities by January 15, 2024 and annually thereafter to the joint standing

1 committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters
2 and agriculture and forestry matters. Staff from the Department of Administrative and
3 Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy must provide administrative support to the
4 committee, including recording of minutes, meeting organization, facilitation of
5 communication among members, conducting research and providing background
6 information and data to the committee.