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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 717

02/04/2019 Authored by Mariani, Poston and Loeffler
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Policy
03/07/2019 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations
03/13/2019 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to health; controlled substances; creating a cannabis task force; requiring
1.3 a report; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 152.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[152.38] CANNABIS TASK FORCE.**

1.7 **Subdivision 1. Establishment; purpose.** (a) The Cannabis Task Force is established to
1.8 advise the legislature on the legal and policy issues associated with the legalization, taxation,
1.9 and regulation of cannabis production, sale, and use by those 21 years of age or older in the
1.10 state.

1.11 (b) It is not the purpose of this task force to provide a recommendation on whether or
1.12 not to legalize cannabis. The purpose of this task force is to gather facts and report them to
1.13 the legislature.

1.14 **Subd. 2. Membership.** (a) The Cannabis Task Force consists of:

1.15 (1) two senators appointed by the president of the senate;

1.16 (2) two senators appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

1.17 (3) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house;

1.18 (4) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the
1.19 house of representatives;

1.20 (5) the commissioner of agriculture or a designee;

1.21 (6) the commissioner of health or a designee;

- 2.1 (7) the commissioner of public safety or a designee;
- 2.2 (8) the attorney general or a designee;
- 2.3 (9) the state public defender or a designee;
- 2.4 (10) the commissioner of revenue or a designee;
- 2.5 (11) the commissioner of labor and industry or a designee;
- 2.6 (12) the commissioner of human services or a designee;
- 2.7 (13) the commissioner of commerce or a designee;
- 2.8 (14) eight members appointed by the governor who have relevant knowledge and
2.9 experience, including:
- 2.10 (i) one person with experience working in the medical cannabis industry;
- 2.11 (ii) one person with experience with enforcement of the state's medical cannabis laws;
- 2.12 (iii) one person with expertise in the treatment of substance abuse disorder;
- 2.13 (iv) one medical cannabis patient;
- 2.14 (v) one person directly involved in the cultivation and distribution of medical cannabis
2.15 in Minnesota;
- 2.16 (vi) one person with experience working in public health policy;
- 2.17 (vii) two persons from separate noncannabis industry organizations who advocate for
2.18 cannabis legalization; and
- 2.19 (viii) one person previously incarcerated in a Minnesota correctional facility;
- 2.20 (15) one person who is an elected official in a statutory or home rule charter city appointed
2.21 by the League of Minnesota Cities;
- 2.22 (16) one medical doctor appointed by the Board of Medical Practice;
- 2.23 (17) one person who is an elected county official or administrator appointed by the
2.24 Association of Minnesota Counties;
- 2.25 (18) one person who is a defense attorney appointed by the Minnesota Association of
2.26 Criminal Defense Lawyers;
- 2.27 (19) one person who is a county attorney appointed by the Minnesota County Attorneys
2.28 Association;
- 2.29 (20) one person who is a sheriff appointed by the Minnesota Sheriff's Association;

- 3.1 (21) one person who is a chief of police appointed by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police
3.2 Association; and
- 3.3 (22) one rank and file peace officer appointed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers
3.4 Association.
- 3.5 (b) Members shall serve without compensation.
- 3.6 Subd. 3. **Organization.** (a) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee
3.7 shall convene the first meeting of the task force.
- 3.8 (b) The task force shall meet monthly or as determined by the chair.
- 3.9 (c) The members of the task force shall elect a chair and other officers as the members
3.10 deem necessary.
- 3.11 Subd. 4. **Staff.** The commissioner of health shall provide support staff, office space, and
3.12 administrative services for the task force.
- 3.13 Subd. 5. **Duties.** (a) The task force shall:
- 3.14 (1) identify and study the potential effects of cannabis legalization including but not
3.15 limited to impacts on public safety, public health, tax policy, and regulatory oversight; and
- 3.16 (2) consult with experts and government officials involved with the legalization of
3.17 cannabis in other states.
- 3.18 (b) The task force shall develop a comprehensive plan that covers:
- 3.19 (1) statutory changes necessary for the legalization of cannabis;
- 3.20 (2) taxation of cannabis sales and appropriate dedicated uses for the tax revenue raised;
- 3.21 (3) state and local regulation of cannabis growth, processing, transport, packaging,
3.22 labeling, sale, possession, and use;
- 3.23 (4) federal law, policy, and regulation of cannabis;
- 3.24 (5) education of the public on scientific knowledge of the effects of cannabis, especially
3.25 with regards to use by minors;
- 3.26 (6) funding for, and provision of, treatment to persons with substance abuse disorder as
3.27 it relates to cannabis;
- 3.28 (7) expungement and pardon of nonviolent marijuana convictions;
- 3.29 (8) security of cannabis retail and manufacturing locations and the safe handling of
3.30 proceeds from cannabis sales, including banking options;

4.1 (9) policies that promote access to the legal cannabis market to persons from communities
4.2 that are disproportionately impacted by the ban on cannabis including incentives for
4.3 minority-owned businesses to participate in the cannabis industry;

4.4 (10) statutory and policy changes designed to discourage operating motor vehicles while
4.5 under the influence of cannabis; and

4.6 (11) recommendations to the legislature and others about necessary and appropriate
4.7 actions related to legalization of cannabis in the state.

4.8 Subd. 6. Report. By January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a report to the chairs
4.9 and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees and
4.10 divisions having jurisdiction over health, human services, revenue, public safety, labor and
4.11 industry, and agriculture policy and finance that details the task force's findings regarding
4.12 the legalization of cannabis including the comprehensive plan developed pursuant to
4.13 subdivision 5.

4.14 Subd. 7. Expiration. This section expires the earlier of January 1, 2020, or the date the
4.15 report is submitted under subdivision 6.

4.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

4.17 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

4.18 \$100,000 in fiscal year 2019 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
4.19 of health for the Cannabis Task Force. This appropriation is available until January 1, 2020.