
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 217 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY RABB, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, ROZZI, MADDEN
AND HOHENSTEIN, JUNE 30, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 30, 2022

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board to encourage and
2 facilitate State System of Higher Education universities to
3 secure United States Drug Enforcement Agency registrations to
4 authorize the possession of cannabis for clinical registrants
5 to engage in hands-on work regarding cultivating, testing,
6 processing and researching cannabis plants.

7 WHEREAS, The act of April 17, 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), known as
8 the Medical Marijuana Act, was passed in a bipartisan fashion;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Act established the Medical
11 Marijuana Advisory Board within the Department of Health of the
12 Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Advisory Board was given the
14 following duties under the Medical Marijuana Act:

15 (1) To examine and analyze the statutory and regulatory
16 law relating to medical marijuana within this Commonwealth.

17 (2) To examine and analyze the law and events in other
18 states and the nation with respect to medical marijuana.

19 (3) To accept and review written comments from
20 individuals and organizations about medical marijuana.

1 (4) To issue a written report to the Governor, the
2 Senate and the House of Representatives two years after the
3 effective date of the Medical Marijuana Act;

4 and

5 WHEREAS, After the receipt of the report of the Medical
6 Marijuana Advisory Board, the Department of Health was given the
7 authority to promulgate regulations to effectuate
8 recommendations made by the advisory board; and

9 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Act established a clinical
10 research program to allow for eight clinical registrants; and

11 WHEREAS, A clinical registrant holds both a medical marijuana
12 grower/processor permit and a dispensary permit; and

13 WHEREAS, Clinical registrants are affiliated with an approved
14 academic clinical research center; and

15 WHEREAS, Clinical registrants act as both the
16 grower/processor and the dispensary to assist academic clinical
17 research centers with providing and dispensing medical marijuana
18 for research; and

19 WHEREAS, The work conducted through these partnerships
20 provides physicians with evidence-based research to make
21 clinical decisions for their patients; and

22 WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91-513, 84
23 Stat. 1236) requires each person seeking to manufacture a
24 controlled substance to obtain a United States Drug Enforcement
25 Agency registration; and

26 WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act defines "manufacture"
27 to include the "production" of a controlled substance, including
28 the planting, cultivation, growing or harvesting of a controlled
29 substance; and

30 WHEREAS, A person seeking to plant, cultivate, grow or

1 harvest marijuana to supply researchers must obtain a United
2 States Drug Enforcement Agency registration; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Drug Enforcement Agency issued a
4 final rule, effective January 19, 2021, to amend its regulations
5 to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana for research
6 purposes; and

7 WHEREAS, As of February 2022, the cannabis industry supports
8 more than 428,000 full-time jobs in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, This equates to an annual job growth rate of 33%;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The cannabis industry needs a labor force, and
12 workers must have the expertise and skills to work in an ever-
13 changing field; and

14 WHEREAS, An increasing number of universities are designing
15 cannabis-related programs to prepare students for this
16 fledgling, but growing, industry; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
18 urge the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board to encourage and
19 facilitate State System of Higher Education universities to
20 secure United States Drug Enforcement Agency registrations to
21 authorize the possession of cannabis for clinical registrants to
22 engage in hands-on work regarding cultivating, testing,
23 processing and researching cannabis plants; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the Medical
25 Marijuana Advisory Board to put forth additional recommendations
26 in partnership with other entities, including universities; and
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the Medical
29 Marijuana Advisory Board to partner with the State System of
30 Higher Education and other entities to address the following

1 concerns regarding any accredited postsecondary institutions
2 that currently offer or are considering cannabis-related degree
3 programs:

4 (1) Policy should ensure that all public educational
5 institutions allow students to use Federal student aid to
6 enroll in and take cannabis-related courses of study.

7 (2) Federal policy should eliminate any restrictions
8 that prohibit universities from receiving Federal funding or
9 grants due to cannabis-related courses of study.

10 (3) Federal policy should permit students who are at
11 least 18 years of age to enroll and participate in courses
12 that involve the touching or handling of cannabis plants.

13 (4) Policy should address the potential for conflict
14 between Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

15 (5) Policy should put in place protections and defenses
16 for universities working with cannabis. The protections may
17 indicate that universities are not subject to disciplinary
18 action or law enforcement interference, so long as they
19 comply with regulations. Furthermore, additional protections
20 should be implemented to ensure that Federal funding is not
21 jeopardized and that university employees and contractors do
22 not face discrimination for legal medical cannabis use.

23 (6) Federal policy should allow for research
24 collaborations between different universities and between
25 universities and corporations. University-corporate
26 partnerships should include:

27 (i) The facilitation of work-based experiential
28 learning opportunities for students, including
29 internships, job-shadowing and part-time employment.

30 (ii) Career connections, including the advertisement

1 of internships and career opportunities on university-
2 owned platforms.

3 (iii) Research collaborations, including sponsored
4 research.

5 (iv) Technology transfer partnerships designed to
6 commercialize agricultural technology findings,
7 extraction methods, genetic sequencing and other
8 intellectual property developed by students and faculty;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That, upon adoption of this concurrent resolution
11 by both chambers of the General Assembly, the Chief Clerk of the
12 House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this
13 resolution to each member of the Medical Marijuana Advisory
14 Board.