

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2796

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2018

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Medicinal Cannabis
5 Research Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONDUCT OF RESEARCH INTO EFFECTS OF CAN-**
2 **NABIS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CERTAIN**
3 **VETERANS.**

4 (a) **RESEARCH REQUIRED.**—In carrying out the re-
5 sponsibilities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
6 section 7303 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary
7 may conduct and support research relating to the efficacy
8 and safety of forms of cannabis described in subsection
9 (c) on the health outcomes of covered veterans diagnosed
10 with chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and
11 other conditions the Secretary determines appropriate.

12 (b) **DATA PRESERVATION.**—Research conducted pur-
13 suant to subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to en-
14 sure the preservation of all data, including all data sets,
15 collected or used for purposes of the research required by
16 subsection (a) in a manner that will facilitate further re-
17 search.

18 (c) **FORMS OF CANNABIS TO BE RESEARCHED.**—The
19 forms of cannabis described in this subsection are—

20 (1) varying forms of cannabis, including—

21 (A) full plants and extracts;

22 (B) at least three different strains of can-
23 nabis with significant variants in phenotypic
24 traits and various ratios of tetrahydrocannabi-
25 nol and cannabidiol in chemical composition;
26 and

1 (C) other chemical analogs of tetrahydro-
2 cannabinal; and

3 (2) varying methods of cannabis delivery, in-
4 cluding topical application, combustible and non-
5 combustible inhalation, and ingestion.

6 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall—

9 (1) develop a plan to implement this section
10 and submit such plan to the Committees on Vet-
11 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and
12 the Senate; and

13 (2) issue any requests for proposals the Sec-
14 retary determines appropriate for such implementa-
15 tion.

16 (e) REPORTS.—During the five-year period beginning
17 on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 shall submit periodically, but not less frequently than an-
19 nually, to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
20 House of Representatives and the Senate reports on the
21 implementation of this section.

22 (f) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
23 the term “covered veteran” means a veteran who is en-
24 rolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department

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1 of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United
2 States Code.

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