

**CENTER FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost**

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Center for Medical Cannabis Research.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ modifies membership requirements for members of the Cannabis Research Review Board;
- ▶ creates the Center for Medical Cannabis Research (center) within the University of Utah;
- ▶ requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the center to create guidance on medical cannabis use;
- ▶ allows the center to be funded by the Qualified Patient Enterprise Fund; and
- ▶ establishes the center's duties.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2024:

- ▶ to the University of Utah - Education and General - Center for Medical Cannabis Research, as an ongoing appropriation:
  - from the Qualified Patient Enterprise Fund, \$650,000.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

30 26-61-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 452

31 26-61a-109, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 5

32 26-61a-703, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 97

33 ENACTS:

34 26-61a-117, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 53B-17-1401, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 53B-17-1402, Utah Code Annotated 1953



38 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

39 Section 1. Section 26-61-201 is amended to read:

40 **26-61-201. Cannabis Research Review Board.**

41 (1) There is created the Cannabis Research Review Board within the department.

42 (2) The department shall appoint, in consultation with a professional association based  
43 in the state that represents physicians, seven members to the Cannabis Research Review Board  
44 as follows:

45 (a) three individuals who are medical research professionals; and

46 (b) four physicians [~~who~~]:

47 (i) who are qualified medical providers; and

48 (ii) at least two who have at least 100 patients with a medical cannabis patient card at  
49 the time of appointment.

50 (3) The department shall ensure that at least one of the board members appointed under  
51 Subsection (2) is a member of the Controlled Substances Advisory Committee created in  
52 Section 58-38a-201.

53 (4) (a) Four of the board members appointed under Subsection (2) shall serve an initial  
54 term of two years and three of the board members appointed under Subsection (2) shall serve  
55 an initial term of four years.

56 (b) Successor board members shall each serve a term of four years.

57 (c) A board member appointed to fill a vacancy on the board shall serve the remainder

58 of the term of the board member whose departure created the vacancy.

59 (5) The department may remove a board member without cause.

60 (6) The board shall:

61 (a) nominate a board member to serve as chairperson of the board by a majority vote of  
62 the board members; and

63 (b) meet as often as necessary to accomplish the duties assigned to the board under this  
64 chapter.

65 (7) Each board member, including the chair, has one vote.

66 (8) (a) A majority of board members constitutes a quorum.

67 (b) A vote of a majority of the quorum at any board meeting is necessary to take action  
68 on behalf of the board.

69 (9) A board member may not receive compensation for the member's service on the  
70 board, but may, in accordance with rules adopted by the board in accordance with Title 63G,  
71 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, receive:

72 (a) per diem at the rate established under Section 63A-3-106; and

73 (b) travel expenses at the rate established under Section 63A-3-107.

74 (10) If a board member appointed under Subsection (2)(b) does not meet the  
75 qualifications of Subsection (2)(b) before July 1, 2022:

76 (a) the board member's seat is vacant; and

77 (b) the department shall fill the vacancy in accordance with this section.

78 Section 2. Section **26-61a-109** is amended to read:

79 **26-61a-109. Qualified Patient Enterprise Fund -- Creation -- Revenue neutrality.**

80 (1) There is created an enterprise fund known as the "Qualified Patient Enterprise  
81 Fund."

82 (2) The fund created in this section is funded from:

83 (a) money the department deposits into the fund under this chapter;

84 (b) appropriations the Legislature makes to the fund; and

85 (c) the interest described in Subsection (3).

86 (3) Interest earned on the fund shall be deposited into the fund.

87 [~~(4) The department may only use money in the fund to fund the department's~~  
88 ~~responsibilities under this chapter]~~

89 (4) Money deposited into the fund may only be used by:

90 (a) the department to accomplish the department's responsibilities described in this  
91 chapter; and

92 (b) the Center for Medical Cannabis Research created in Section [53B-17-1402](#) to  
93 accomplish the Center for Medical Cannabis Research's responsibilities.

94 (5) The department shall set fees authorized under this chapter in amounts that the  
95 department anticipates are necessary, in total, to cover the department's cost to implement this  
96 chapter.

97 Section 3. Section **26-61a-117** is enacted to read:

98 **26-61a-117. Guidance for treatment with medical cannabis.**

99 The department, in consultation with the Center for Medical Cannabis Research created  
100 in Section [53B-17-1402](#), shall:

101 (1) develop evidence-based guidance for treatment with medical cannabis based on the  
102 latest medical research that shall include:

103 (a) for each qualifying condition, a summary of the latest medical research regarding  
104 the treatment of the qualifying condition with medical cannabis;

105 (b) risks, contraindications, side effects, and adverse reactions that are associated with  
106 medical cannabis use; and

107 (c) potential drug interactions between medical cannabis and medications that have  
108 been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

109 (2) educate recommending medical providers, pharmacy medical providers, medical  
110 cannabis cardholders, and the public regarding:

111 (a) the evidence-based guidance for treatment with medical cannabis described in  
112 Subsection (1)(a);

113 (b) relevant warnings and safety information related to medical cannabis use; and

114 (c) other topics related to medical cannabis use as determined by the department.

115 Section 4. Section **26-61a-703** is amended to read:

116 **26-61a-703. Report.**

117 (1) By the November interim meeting each year beginning in 2020, the department  
118 shall report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee on:

119 (a) the number of applications and renewal applications filed for medical cannabis  
120 cards;

121 (b) the number of qualifying patients and designated caregivers;

122 (c) the nature of the debilitating medical conditions of the qualifying patients;

123 (d) the age and county of residence of cardholders;

124 (e) the number of medical cannabis cards revoked;

125 (f) the number of practitioners providing recommendations for qualifying patients;

126 (g) the number of license applications and renewal license applications received;

127 (h) the number of licenses the department has issued in each county;

128 (i) the number of licenses the department has revoked;

129 (j) the quantity of medical cannabis shipments that the state central patient portal  
130 facilitates;

131 (k) the number of overall purchases of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products  
132 from each medical cannabis pharmacy;

133 (l) the expenses incurred and revenues generated from the medical cannabis program;

134 and

135 (m) an analysis of product availability in medical cannabis pharmacies.

136 (2) The report shall include information provided by the Center for Medical Cannabis  
137 Research described in Section [53B-17-1402](#).

138 [~~(2)~~] (3) The department may not include personally identifying information in the  
139 report described in this section.

140 [~~(3)~~] (4) During the 2022 legislative interim, the department shall report to the working  
141 group described in Section [36-12-8.2](#) as requested by the working group.

142 Section 5. Section 53B-17-1401 is enacted to read:

143 CHAPTER 17. UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

144 Part 14. Center for Medical Cannabis Research

145 **53B-17-1401. Definitions.**

146 As used in this part:

147 (1) "Academic research cannabis license" means the license described in Title 4,  
148 Chapter 41a, Part 9, Academic Medical Cannabis Research.

149 (2) "Cannabis" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26-61a-102.

150 (3) "Cannabis cultivation facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
151 4-41a-102.

152 (4) "Cannabis product" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26-61a-102.

153 (5) "Center" means the Center for the Medical Cannabis Research created in Section  
154 53B-17-1402.

155 (6) "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education that:

156 (a) is located in Utah; and

157 (b) has or will obtain an academic research cannabis license.

158 (7) "Medical cannabis patient card" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
159 26-61a-102.

160 Section 6. Section 53B-17-1402 is enacted to read:

161 **53B-17-1402. Center creation -- Duties.**

162 (1) There is created the Center for Medical Cannabis Research within the University of  
163 Utah.

164 (2) The center:

165 (a) shall seek state, federal, and private funds to award grants for medical cannabis  
166 research;

167 (b) shall facilitate and support funding for research related to the health effects,  
168 including the potential risks or side effects, of the use of cannabis products;

169 (c) shall facilitate and support funding for research related to the efficacy and potential

170 health effects of various cannabis delivery methods, including vaporizing, ingesting, topical  
171 application, and combustion;

172 (d) shall support researchers in applying for and securing federal and private research  
173 grant funding for expanding medical cannabis research;

174 (e) shall review current and future cannabis research literature, clinical studies, and  
175 clinical trials;

176 (f) shall educate medical providers, lawmakers, and the public about medical cannabis  
177 research advances;

178 (g) shall, if requested, consult with researchers and eligible institutions seeking to  
179 conduct medical cannabis research regarding legal implications of the research under state and  
180 federal law;

181 (h) shall monitor, to the extent that appropriate and sufficient data are available, patient  
182 outcomes in any state with a medicinal cannabis program;

183 (i) may coordinate, share knowledge, and share best practices with a state:

184 (i) that has a medical cannabis program; and

185 (ii) is conducting cannabis research;

186 (j) may award or facilitate funding for grants to an eligible institution for medical  
187 cannabis research, including research regarding the growing of a medical-grade cannabis plant  
188 that is used for a cannabis product;

189 (k) shall support a licensed cannabis cultivation facility to provide medical-grade  
190 cannabis products for research;

191 (l) shall make, for research conducted by the center, the research outcomes publicly  
192 available;

193 (m) shall maintain a catalog of all published scientific reports based on projects funded  
194 or managed by the center;

195 (n) shall ensure that an individual who agrees to use a cannabis product as part of a  
196 research project conducted by the center or a grantee has:

197 (i) a valid medical cannabis patient card from the state; or

198 (ii) if included in the research project as a resident of another state, the equivalent of a  
199 medical cannabis patient card under the laws of another state, district, territory,  
200 commonwealth, or insular possession of the United States;

201 (o) shall obtain an academic research cannabis license;

202 (p) may apply for, or assist an eligible institution to apply for, a federal cannabis  
203 cultivation registration to locate a cannabis cultivation site in Utah; and

204 (q) for the report described in Section 26-61a-703, shall provide information to the  
205 Department of Health and Human Services describing:

206 (i) all research projects that are funded by a grant awarded by the center, including  
207 which institution received the grant;

208 (ii) all research projects conducted by the center; and

209 (iii) the adequacy of funding for the center's duties.

210 (3) For research funded, conducted, or facilitated by the center, the center shall ensure  
211 the research:

212 (a) includes appropriate research development, testing, and evaluation; and

213 (b) if the research involves human subjects, is reviewed, approved, and overseen by an  
214 institutional review board as defined in Section 26-61-102.

215 (4) The University of Utah shall provide staff for the center.

216 **Section 7. Appropriation.**

217 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
218 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
219 fiscal year 2024. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures  
220 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts  
221 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

222 ITEM 1

223 To University of Utah - Education and General

224 From Qualified Patient Enterprise Fund

650,000

225 Schedule of Programs:



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Center for Medical Cannabis Research

650,000

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The Legislature intends that the Center for Medical Cannabis Research (center) use the

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appropriation under this item to carry out the center's duties described in Section [53B-17-1402](#).