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HOUSE BILL NO. 1064

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 10, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-250.1, 18.2-251.1, 18.2-258.1, 54.1-3408.3, and 54.1-3442.5 through 54.1-3442.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to medical marijuana; written certification.

Patrons—Heretick and Levine

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 18.2-250.1, 18.2-251.1, 18.2-258.1, 54.1-3408.3, and 54.1-3442.5 through 54.1-3442.8 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-250.1. Possession of marijuana unlawful.

A. It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess marijuana unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of, or written certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3 by, a practitioner while acting in the course of his professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.).

Upon the prosecution of a person for violation of this section, ownership or occupancy of the premises or vehicle upon or in which marijuana was found shall not create a presumption that such person either knowingly or intentionally possessed such marijuana.

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be confined in jail not more than 30 days and fined not more than \$500, either or both; any person, upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to members of state, federal, county, city, or town law-enforcement agencies, jail officers, or correctional officers, as defined in § 53.1-1, certified as handlers of dogs trained in the detection of controlled substances when possession of marijuana is necessary for the performance of their duties.

~~C. In any prosecution under this section involving marijuana in the form of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil as those terms are defined in § 54.1-3408.3, it shall be an affirmative defense that the individual possessed such oil pursuant to a valid written certification issued by a practitioner in the course of his professional practice pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3 for treatment or to alleviate the symptoms of (i) the individual's intractable epilepsy or (ii) if such individual is the parent or legal guardian of a minor or of an incapacitated adult as defined in § 18.2-369, such minor's or incapacitated adult's intractable epilepsy. If the individual files the valid written certification with the court at least 10 days prior to trial and causes a copy of such written certification to be delivered to the attorney for the Commonwealth, such written certification shall be prima facie evidence that such oil was possessed pursuant to a valid written certification.~~

§ 18.2-251.1. Possession or distribution of marijuana for medical purposes permitted.

A. No person shall be prosecuted under § 18.2-250 or § 18.2-250.1 for the possession of marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol when that possession occurs pursuant to a valid prescription issued by a medical doctor in the course of his professional practice or valid written certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3 for the treatment of cancer or glaucoma any medical condition.

B. No medical doctor shall be prosecuted under § 18.2-248 or § 18.2-248.1 for dispensing or distributing marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol for medical purposes when such action occurs in the course of his professional practice for treatment of cancer or glaucoma.

C. No pharmacist shall be prosecuted under §§ 18.2-248 to through 18.2-248.1 for dispensing or distributing marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol to any person who holds a valid prescription of a medical doctor or valid written certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3 for such substance issued in the course of such doctor's professional practice for treatment of cancer or glaucoma.

§ 18.2-258.1. Obtaining drugs, procuring administration of controlled substances, etc., by fraud, deceit or forgery.

A. It shall be is unlawful for any person to obtain or attempt to obtain any drug or procure or attempt to procure the administration of any controlled substance or marijuana: (i) by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, embezzlement, or subterfuge; (ii) by the forgery or alteration of a prescription or of any written order, or written certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3; (iii) by the concealment of a material fact; or (iv) by the use of a false name or the giving of a false address.

B. It shall be is unlawful for any person to furnish false or fraudulent information in or omit any information from, or willfully make a false statement in, any prescription, order, report, record, written

INTRODUCED

HB1064

59 *certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3, or other document required by Chapter 34 (§ 54.1-3400 et*
 60 *seq.) of Title 54.1.*

61 C. It ~~shall be~~ *is* unlawful for any person to use in the course of the manufacture or distribution of a
 62 controlled substance or marijuana a license number which is fictitious, revoked, suspended, or issued to
 63 another person.

64 D. It ~~shall be~~ *is* unlawful for any person, for the purpose of obtaining any controlled substance or
 65 marijuana to falsely assume the title of, or represent himself to be, a manufacturer, wholesaler,
 66 pharmacist, physician, dentist, veterinarian, or other authorized person.

67 E. It ~~shall be~~ *is* unlawful for any person to make or utter any false or forged prescription ~~or false or~~
 68 ~~forged, written order, or written certification issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3.~~

69 F. It ~~shall be~~ *is* unlawful for any person to affix any false or forged label to a package or receptacle
 70 containing any controlled substance.

71 G. This section shall not apply to officers and employees of the United States, of this
 72 Commonwealth or of a political subdivision of this Commonwealth acting in the course of their
 73 employment, who obtain such drugs for investigative, research, or analytical purposes, or to the agents
 74 or duly authorized representatives of any pharmaceutical manufacturer who obtain such drugs for
 75 investigative, research, or analytical purposes and who are acting in the course of their employment,
 76 provided that such manufacturer is licensed under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and
 77 Cosmetic Act; and provided further, that such pharmaceutical manufacturer, *and* its agents and duly
 78 authorized representatives file with the Board such information as the Board may deem appropriate.

79 H. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person who ~~shall violate~~ *violates* any
 80 provision herein ~~shall be~~ *is* guilty of a Class 6 felony.

81 Whenever any person who has not previously been convicted of any offense under this article or
 82 under any statute of the United States or of any state relating to narcotic drugs, marijuana, or stimulant,
 83 depressant, or hallucinogenic drugs, or has not previously had a proceeding against him for violation of
 84 such an offense dismissed, or reduced as provided in this section, pleads guilty to or enters a plea of not
 85 guilty to the court for violating this section, upon such plea if the facts found by the court would justify
 86 a finding of guilt, the court may place him on probation upon terms and conditions.

87 As a term or condition, the court shall require the accused to be evaluated and enter a treatment
 88 and/or education program, if available, such as, in the opinion of the court, may be best suited to the
 89 needs of the accused. This program may be located in the judicial circuit in which the charge is brought
 90 or in any other judicial circuit as the court may provide. The services shall be provided by a program
 91 certified or licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The court
 92 shall require the person entering such program under the provisions of this section to pay all or part of
 93 the costs of the program, including the costs of the screening, evaluation, testing, and education, based
 94 upon the person's ability to pay unless the person is determined by the court to be indigent.

95 As a condition of supervised probation, the court shall require the accused to remain drug free during
 96 the period of probation and submit to such tests during that period as may be necessary and appropriate
 97 to determine if the accused is drug free. Such testing may be conducted by the personnel of any
 98 screening, evaluation, and education program to which the person is referred or by the supervising
 99 agency.

100 Unless the accused was fingerprinted at the time of arrest, the court shall order the accused to report
 101 to the original arresting law-enforcement agency to submit to fingerprinting.

102 Upon violation of a term or condition, the court may enter an adjudication of guilt upon the felony
 103 and proceed as otherwise provided. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions of probation, the court
 104 shall find the defendant guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

105 **§ 54.1-3408.3. Certification for use of marijuana.**

106 A. As used in this section,

107 "Cannabidiol oil" means a processed Cannabis plant extract that contains at least 15 percent
 108 cannabidiol but no more than five percent tetrahydrocannabinol, or a dilution of the resin of the
 109 Cannabis plant that contains at least 50 milligrams of cannabidiol per milliliter but not more than five
 110 percent tetrahydrocannabinol.

111 "Practitioner" *"practitioner"* means a practitioner of medicine or osteopathy licensed by the Board of
 112 Medicine who is a neurologist or who specializes in the treatment of epilepsy.

113 "THC-A oil" means a processed Cannabis plant extract that contains at least 15 percent
 114 tetrahydrocannabinol acid but not more than five percent tetrahydrocannabinol, or a dilution of the resin
 115 of the Cannabis plant that contains at least 50 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol acid per milliliter but
 116 not more than five percent tetrahydrocannabinol.

117 B. A practitioner in the course of his professional practice may issue a written certification for the
 118 use of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil *marijuana* for the treatment or to alleviate the symptoms of a
 119 patient's *intractable epilepsy medical condition*.

120 C. The written certification shall be on a form provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary of

121 the Supreme Court developed in consultation with the Board of Medicine. Such written certification
122 shall contain the name, address, and telephone number of the practitioner, the name and address of the
123 patient issued the written certification, the date on which the written certification was made, and the
124 signature of the practitioner. Such written certification issued pursuant to subsection B shall expire no
125 later than one year after its issuance unless the practitioner provides in such written certification an
126 earlier expiration.

127 D. No practitioner shall be prosecuted under § 18.2-248 or 18.2-248.1 for dispensing or distributing
128 ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~ *marijuana* for the treatment or to alleviate the symptoms of a patient's
129 ~~intractable epilepsy~~ *medical condition* pursuant to a written certification issued pursuant to subsection B.
130 Nothing in this section shall preclude the Board of Medicine from sanctioning a practitioner for failing
131 to properly evaluate or treat a patient's medical condition or otherwise violating the applicable standard
132 of care for evaluating or treating medical conditions.

133 E. A practitioner who issues a written certification to a patient pursuant to this section shall register
134 with the Board. The Board shall, in consultation with the Board of Medicine, set a limit on the number
135 of patients to whom a practitioner may issue a written certification.

136 F. A patient who has been issued a written certification shall register with the Board or, if such
137 patient is a minor or an incapacitated adult as defined in § 18.2-369, a patient's parent or legal guardian
138 shall register and shall register such patient with the Board.

139 G. The Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the registration process. Such regulations
140 shall include (i) a mechanism for sufficiently identifying the practitioner issuing the written certification,
141 the patient being treated by the practitioner, and, if such patient is a minor or an incapacitated adult as
142 defined in § 18.2-369, the patient's parent or legal guardian; (ii) a process for ensuring that any changes
143 in the information are reported in an appropriate timeframe; and (iii) a prohibition for the patient to be
144 issued a written certification by more than one practitioner during any given time period.

145 H. Information obtained under the registration process shall be confidential and shall not be subject
146 to the disclosure provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.). However,
147 reasonable access to registry information shall be provided to (i) the Chairmen of the House and Senate
148 Committees for Courts of Justice, (ii) state and federal agencies or local law enforcement for the
149 purpose of investigating or prosecuting a specific individual for a specific violation of law, (iii) licensed
150 physicians or pharmacists for the purpose of providing patient care and drug therapy management and
151 monitoring of drugs obtained by a registered patient, (iv) a pharmaceutical processor involved in the
152 treatment of a registered patient, or (v) a registered patient or, if such patient is a minor or an
153 incapacitated adult as defined in § 18.2-369, the patient's parent or legal guardian, but only with respect
154 to information related to such registered patient.

155 Article 4.2.

156 Permitting of Pharmaceutical Processors to Produce and Dispense ~~Cannabidiol Oil and THC-A Oil~~
157 *Marijuana*.

158 § 54.1-3442.5. Definitions.

159 As used in this article:

160 "~~Cannabidiol oil~~" has the same meaning as specified in § 54.1-3408.3.

161 "Pharmaceutical processor" means a facility that (i) has obtained a permit from the Board pursuant to
162 § 54.1-3408.3 and (ii) cultivates Cannabis plants intended only for the production of ~~cannabidiol oil or~~
163 ~~THC-A oil~~ *marijuana for use in the treatment of medical conditions*, produces ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A~~
164 ~~oil~~ *marijuana for use in the treatment of medical conditions*, and dispenses ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~
165 to a registered patient or, if such patient is a minor or an incapacitated adult as defined in § 18.2-369,
166 such patient's parent or legal guardian for the treatment of ~~intractable epilepsy~~ *any medical condition*.

167 "Practitioner" has the same meaning as specified in § 54.1-3408.3.

168 "~~THC-A oil~~" has the same meaning as specified in § 54.1-3408.3.

169 § 54.1-3442.6. Permit to operate pharmaceutical processor.

170 A. No person shall operate a pharmaceutical processor without first obtaining a permit from the
171 Board. The application for such permit shall be made on a form provided by the Board and signed by a
172 pharmacist who will be in full and actual charge of the pharmaceutical processor. The Board shall
173 establish an application fee and other general requirements for such application.

174 B. Each permit shall expire annually on a date determined by the Board in regulation. The number of
175 permits that the Board may issue or renew in any year is limited to one for each health service area
176 established by the Board of Health. Permits shall be displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises of
177 the pharmaceutical processor.

178 C. The Board shall adopt regulations establishing health, safety, and security requirements for
179 pharmaceutical processors. Such regulations shall include requirements for (i) physical standards; (ii)
180 location restrictions; (iii) security systems and controls; (iv) minimum equipment and resources; (v)
181 recordkeeping; (vi) labeling and packaging; (vii) quarterly inspections; (viii) processes for safely and

182 securely cultivating Cannabis plants intended for producing ~~cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil marijuana~~
183 ~~for use in the treatment of medical conditions~~, producing ~~cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil marijuana for~~
184 ~~use in the treatment of medical conditions~~, and dispensing and delivering in person ~~cannabidiol oil and~~
185 ~~THC-A oil marijuana~~ to a registered patient or, if such patient is a minor or an incapacitated adult as
186 defined in § 18.2-369, such patient's parent or legal guardian; (ix) a maximum number of marijuana
187 plants a pharmaceutical processor may possess at any one time; and (x) the secure disposal of plant
188 remains.

189 D. Every pharmaceutical processor shall be under the personal supervision of a licensed pharmacist
190 on the premises of the pharmaceutical processor.

191 E. No person who has been convicted of a felony or of any offense in violation of Article 1
192 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) or Article 1.1 (§ 18.2-265.1 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2 shall be employed
193 by or act as an agent of a pharmaceutical processor.

194 **§ 54.1-3442.7. Dispensing marijuana; report.**

195 A. A pharmaceutical processor shall dispense or deliver ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil marijuana~~ only
196 in person to (i) a patient who is a Virginia resident, has been issued a valid written certification, and is
197 registered with the Board pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3 or (ii) if such patient is a minor or an incapacitated
198 adult as defined in § 18.2-369, such patient's parent or legal guardian who is a Virginia resident and is
199 registered with the Board pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3. Prior to dispensing, the pharmaceutical processor
200 shall verify that the practitioner issuing the written certification, the patient, and, if such patient is a
201 minor or an incapacitated adult, the patient's parent or legal guardian are registered with the Board. No
202 pharmaceutical processor shall dispense more than a 30-day supply for any patient during any 30-day
203 period. The Board shall establish in regulation an amount of ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil marijuana~~
204 that constitutes a 30-day supply to ~~treat or alleviate the symptoms of a patient's intractable epilepsy.~~

205 B. A pharmaceutical processor shall dispense only ~~cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil marijuana~~ that has
206 been cultivated and produced on the premises of such pharmaceutical processor.

207 C. The Board shall report annually by December 1 to the Chairmen of the House and Senate
208 Committees for Courts of Justice on the operation of pharmaceutical processors issued a permit by the
209 Board, including the number of practitioners, patients, and parents or legal guardians of patients who
210 have registered with the Board and the number of written certifications issued pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3.

211 **§ 54.1-3442.8. Criminal liability; exceptions.**

212 In any prosecution of an ~~No~~ agent or employee of a pharmaceutical processor ~~shall be prosecuted~~
213 under § 18.2-248, 18.2-248.1, 18.2-250, or 18.2-250.1 for ~~possession or manufacture of marijuana or for~~
214 ~~possession, manufacture, or distribution of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~, it shall be an affirmative
215 defense that ~~marijuana~~ if such agent or employee (i) possessed or manufactured such marijuana for the
216 purposes of producing ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~ in accordance with the provisions of this article and
217 Board regulations or (ii) possessed, manufactured, or distributed such ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~
218 ~~marijuana~~ in accordance with the provisions of this article and Board regulations. If such agent or
219 employee files a copy of the permit issued to the pharmaceutical processor pursuant to ~~§ 54.1-3442.6~~
220 with the court at least 10 days prior to trial and causes a copy of such permit to be delivered to the
221 attorney for the Commonwealth, such permit shall be prima facie evidence that (a) such marijuana was
222 possessed or manufactured for the purposes of producing ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~ in accordance
223 with the provisions of this article and Board regulations or (b) such ~~cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil~~ was
224 possessed, manufactured, or distributed in accordance with the provisions of this article and Board
225 regulations.

226 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or**
227 **commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot**
228 **be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter**
229 **836 of the Acts of Assembly of 2017 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to**
230 **assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the**
231 **necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the**
232 **Department of Juvenile Justice.**