

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4754

FISCAL
NOTE

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[Introduced February 07, 2020; Referred to the
Committee on Health and Human Resources then the
Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16A-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to including ulcerative colitis as a “serious medical condition”.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS.

§16A-2-1. Definitions.

1 (a) The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings
2 given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 (1) “Act” means the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act and the provisions contained in
4 §60A-1-101 *et seq.* of this code.

5 (2) “Advisory board” means the advisory board established under §16A-11-1 *et seq.* of
6 this code.

7 (3) “Bureau” means the Bureau for Public Health within the West Virginia Department of
8 Health and Human Resources.

9 (4) “Caregiver” means the individual designated by a patient or, if the patient is under 18
10 years of age, an individual authorized under §16A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code, to deliver medical
11 cannabis.

12 (5) “Certified medical use” means the acquisition, possession, use, or transportation of
13 medical cannabis by a patient, or the acquisition, possession, delivery, transportation, or
14 administration of medical cannabis by a caregiver, for use as part of the treatment of the patient’s
15 serious medical condition, as authorized in a certification under this act, including enabling the
16 patient to tolerate treatment for the serious medical condition.

17 (6) “Change in control” means the acquisition by a person or group of persons acting in
18 concert of a controlling interest in an applicant or permittee either all at one time or over the span
19 of a 12-consecutive-month period.

20 (7) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health.

21 (8) “Continuing care” means treating a patient, in the course of which the practitioner has

22 completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition,
23 including an in-person consultation with the patient, and is able to document and make a medical
24 diagnosis based upon the substantive treatment of the patient.

25 (9) "Controlling interest" means:

26 (A) For a publicly traded entity, voting rights that entitle a person to elect or appoint one
27 or more of the members of the board of directors or other governing board or the ownership or
28 beneficial holding of five percent or more of the securities of the publicly traded entity.

29 (B) For a privately held entity, the ownership of any security in the entity.

30 (10) "Dispensary" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership,
31 association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit issued by the
32 bureau to dispense medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical cannabis
33 organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

34 (11) "Family or household member" means the same as defined in §48-27-204 of this
35 code.

36 (12) "Financial backer" means an investor, mortgagee, bondholder, note holder, or other
37 source of equity, capital, or other assets, other than a financial institution.

38 (13) "Financial institution" means a bank, a national banking association, a bank and trust
39 company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building and loan association, a
40 mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.

41 (14) "Form of medical cannabis" means the characteristics of the medical cannabis
42 recommended or limited for a particular patient, including the method of consumption and any
43 particular dosage, strain, variety and quantity, or percentage of medical cannabis or particular
44 active ingredient.

45 (15) "Fund" means the Medical Cannabis Program Fund established in §16A-9-2 of this
46 code.

47 (16) "Grower" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership,

48 association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit from the bureau
49 under this act to grow medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical
50 cannabis organization as defined in §16-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

51 (17) "Grower/processor" means either a grower or a processor.

52 (18) "Identification card" means a document issued under §16A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code
53 that authorizes access to medical cannabis under this act.

54 (19) "Individual dose" means a single measure of medical cannabis.

55 (20) "Medical cannabis" means cannabis for certified medical use as set forth in this act.

56 (21) "Medical cannabis organization" means a dispensary, grower, or processor. The term
57 does not include a health care medical cannabis organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of
58 this code.

59 (22) "Patient" means an individual who:

60 (A) Has a serious medical condition;

61 (B) Has met the requirements for certification under this act; and

62 (C) Is a resident of this state.

63 (23) "Permit" means an authorization issued by the bureau to a medical cannabis
64 organization to conduct activities under this act.

65 (24) "Physician" or "practitioner" means a doctor of allopathic or osteopathic medicine who
66 is fully licensed pursuant to the provisions of either §30-3-1 *et seq.* or §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this
67 code to practice medicine and surgery in this state.

68 (25) "Post-traumatic stress disorder" means a diagnosis made as part of continuing care
69 of a patient by a medical doctor, licensed counselor, or psychologist.

70 (26) "Prescription drug monitoring program" means the West Virginia Controlled
71 Substances Monitoring Program under §60A-9-101 *et seq.* of this code.

72 (27) "Principal" means an officer, director, or person who directly owns a beneficial interest
73 in or ownership of the securities of an applicant or permittee, a person who has a controlling

74 interest in an applicant or permittee, or who has the ability to elect the majority of the board of
75 directors of an applicant or permittee, or otherwise control an applicant or permittee, other than a
76 financial institution.

77 (28) "Processor" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership,
78 association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit from the bureau
79 under this act to process medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical
80 cannabis organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

81 (29) "Registry" means the registry established by the bureau for practitioners.

82 (30) "Serious medical condition" means any of the following, as has been diagnosed as
83 part of a patient's continuing care:

84 (A) Cancer.

85 (B) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency
86 syndrome.

87 (C) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

88 (D) Parkinson's disease.

89 (E) Multiple sclerosis.

90 (F) Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication
91 of intractable spasticity.

92 (G) Epilepsy.

93 (H) Neuropathies.

94 (I) Huntington's disease.

95 (J) Crohn's disease.

96 (K) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

97 (L) Intractable seizures.

98 (M) Sickle cell anemia.

99 (N) Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable

- 100 pain.
- 101 (O) Terminally ill.
- 102 (P) Ulcerative colitis.
- 103 (31) "Terminally ill" means a medical prognosis of life expectancy of approximately one
- 104 year or less if the illness runs its normal course.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to include ulcerative colitis when defining a serious medical condition so as to legalize the use of medical cannabis when treating ulcerative colitis in accordance to §16A of the Code of West Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.