

# Overview of Marijuana Use and Attitudes in the United States

Marijuana has been used for medicinal purposes since long before the United States was even considered, dating back to the Chinese in c. 2737 BCE. In the United States, despite early robust use, Cannabis was criminalized in the United States in 1937 – notably – against the recommendation submitted on record to Congress by the American Medical Association. Almost 75 years later, fourteen states have legalized/decriminalized the medical use of marijuana by patients.

**Below is a summary of those FOURTEEN STATES that have decriminalized the use of medical marijuana.**

## **Alaska:** [Alaska Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Law Effective: Mar. 4, 1999. Ballot Measure 8 -- Approved Nov. 3, 1998 by 58% of voters. Allows up to 1 ounce of dried marijuana and six plants (3 mature, 3 immature) with a signed physician statement certifying diagnosis and that other medications were considered. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$25/\$20 renewal.

Removed state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess written documentation from their physician advising that they "might benefit from the medical use of marijuana."

Approved Conditions: Cachexia, cancer, chronic pain, epilepsy and other disorders characterized by seizures, glaucoma, HIV or AIDS, multiple sclerosis and other disorders characterized by muscle spasticity, and nausea. Other conditions are subject to approval by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

Possession/Cultivation: Patients (or their primary caregivers) may legally possess no more than one ounce of usable marijuana, and may cultivate no more than six marijuana plants, of which no more than three may be mature.

**Amended Effective:** June 2, 1999: Senate Bill 94

The law establishes a confidential state-run patient registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients.

Mandates all patients seeking legal protection under this act to enroll in the state patient registry and possess a valid identification card. Patients not enrolled in the registry will no longer be able to argue the "affirmative defense of medical necessity" if they are arrested on marijuana charges

**Update:** Alaska Statute Title 17 Chapter 37 (36 KB)

Creates a confidential statewide registry of medical marijuana patients and caregivers and establishes identification card.

Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics  
Marijuana Registry  
P.O. Box 110699  
Juneau, AK 99811-0699  
Phone: 907-465-5423

**California:** [California Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Law Effective: Nov. 6, 1996. **Ballot Proposition 215** passed on Nov. 5, 1996 by 56% of voters. Allows up to 8 ounces of dried marijuana and 18 plants (6 mature, 12 immature marijuana plants). Does NOT allow outside states' marijuana cards.

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess a "written or oral recommendation" from their physician that he or she "would benefit from medical marijuana." Patients diagnosed with any debilitating illness where the medical use of marijuana has been "deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician" are afforded legal protection under this act.

**Approved Conditions:** AIDS, anorexia, arthritis, cachexia, cancer, chronic pain, glaucoma, migraine, persistent muscle spasms, including spasms associated with multiple sclerosis, seizures, including seizures associated with epilepsy, severe nausea; Other chronic or persistent medical symptoms.

**Amended Effective:** Jan. 1, 2004: Senate Bill 420 (70 KB)

Imposes statewide guidelines outlining how much medicinal marijuana patients may grow and possess.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Qualified patients and their primary caregivers may possess no more than eight ounces of dried marijuana and/or six mature (or 12 immature) marijuana plants. However, S.B. 420 allows patients to possess larger amounts of marijuana when recommended by a physician. The legislation also allows counties and municipalities to approve and/or maintain local ordinances permitting patients to possess larger quantities of medicinal pot than allowed under the new state guidelines.

S.B. 420 also grants implied legal protection to the state's medicinal marijuana dispensaries, stating, "Qualified patients, persons with valid identification cards, and the designated primary caregivers of qualified patients ... who associate within the state of California in order collectively or cooperatively to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes, shall not solely on the basis of that fact be subject to state criminal sanctions."

California Department of Public Health  
Office of County Health Services  
Attention: Medical Marijuana Program Unit  
MS 5203  
P.O. Box 997377  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377  
Phone: 916-552-8600  
Fax: 916-440-5591

### **Colorado:** [Colorado Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Effective June 1, 2001. Approved by Ballot Amendment 20, November 7, 2000 by 54% of the voters. ([Text of law](#)) Allows 2 oz. of dried marijuana and 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature). *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$90.

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess written documentation from their physician affirming that he or she suffers from a debilitating condition and advising that they "might benefit from the medical use of marijuana." (Patients must possess this documentation prior to an arrest.)

**Approved Conditions:** Cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS positive, cachexia; severe pain; severe nausea; seizures, including those that are characteristic of epilepsy; or persistent muscle spasms, including those that are characteristic of multiple sclerosis. Other conditions are subject to approval by the Colorado Board of Health.

**Possession/Cultivation:** A patient or a primary caregiver who has been issued a Medical Marijuana Registry identification card may possess no more than two ounces of a usable form of marijuana and not more than six marijuana plants, with three or fewer being mature, flowering plants that are producing a usable form of marijuana.

Patients who do not join the registry or possess greater amounts of marijuana than allowed by law may argue the "affirmative defense of medical necessity" if they are arrested on marijuana charges.

**Amended:** House Bill 1284 (236 KB) and Senate Bill 109 (50 KB)

**Effective:** June 7, 2010

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed the bills into law and stated the following in a June 7, 2010 press release:

“House Bill 1284 provides a regulatory framework for dispensaries, including giving local communities the ability to ban or place sensible and much-needed controls on the operation, location and ownership of these establishments. . . . Senate Bill 109 will help prevent fraud by ensuring that physicians who authorize medical marijuana for actually perform a physical exam

for patients,; that they do not have problems with their medical license; and that they do not have a financial relationship with a dispensary.”

Medical Marijuana Registry  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
HSVR-ADM2-A1  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530  
Phone: 303-692-2184

### **Hawaii:** [Hawaii Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Law Effective December 28, 2000. Approved by House Bill 862 (approved 32-18 by the House and 13-12 by the Senate. Signed into law by Governor Ben Cayetano on June 14, 2000.

Allows up to 3 ounces of dried marijuana and 7 plants (3 mature, 4 immature marijuana plants). *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$25. Does NOT allow outside states' marijuana cards.

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess a signed statement from their physician affirming that he or she suffers from a debilitating condition and that the "potential benefits of medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks." The law establishes a mandatory, confidential state-run patient registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients.

**Approved conditions:** Cancer, glaucoma, positive status for HIV/AIDS; A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces cachexia or wasting syndrome, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy, or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis or Crohn's disease. Other conditions are subject to approval by the Hawaii Department of Health.

**Possession/Cultivation:** The amount of marijuana that may be possessed jointly between the qualifying patient and the primary caregiver is an "adequate supply," which shall not exceed three mature marijuana plants, four immature marijuana plants, and one ounce of usable marijuana per each mature plant.

### **Narcotics Enforcement Division**

3375 Koapaka Street, Suite D-100  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Phone: 808-837-8470  
Fax: 808-837-8474

### **Maine:**

Law Effective December 22, 1999. Approved November 2, 1999 by **Ballot Question 2** (61% of the voters).

Allows up to 2.5 ounces of dried marijuana and 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature). *Marijuana*

*ID Card Fee* is: [NOT YET ESTABLISHED: State licensing program in task force phase]. Law allows outside states' marijuana cards, but only for the conditions approved in Maine  
Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess an oral or written "professional opinion" from their physician that he or she "might benefit from the medical use of marijuana." The law does not establish a state-run patient registry.

**Approved diagnosis:** epilepsy and other disorders characterized by seizures; glaucoma; multiple sclerosis and other disorders characterized by muscle spasticity; and nausea or vomiting as a result of AIDS or cancer chemotherapy.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Patients (or their primary caregivers) may legally possess no more than one and one-quarter (1.25) ounces of usable marijuana, and may cultivate no more than six marijuana plants, of which no more than three may be mature. Those patients who possess greater amounts of marijuana than allowed by law are afforded a "simple defense" to a charge of marijuana possession.

**Amended:** Senate Bill 611

**Effective:** Signed into law on Apr. 2, 2002

Increases the amount of useable marijuana a person may possess from one and one-quarter (1.25) ounces to two and one-half (2.5) ounces.

### **Michigan:** [Michigan Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Law Effective December 4, 2008. The "*Michigan Medical Marijuana Act*" (Proposal 1) was approved by 63% of the voters on November 4, 2008. ([Text of law](#)) **Proposal 1** (60 KB)"  
Allows up to 2.5 ounces of dried marijuana and 12 plants. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$100 / \$25 renewal. ALLOWS outside states' marijuana cards.

Michigan Medical Marijuana Program (MMMP)  
Bureau of Health Professions, Department of Community Health  
611 W. Ottawa St.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517-373-0395

### **Montana:** [Montana Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Law Effective November 2, 2004. Initiative 148 approved by 62% of the voters on November 2, 2004. ([Text of law](#)) **Initiative 148** (76 KB)

Allows up to 1 ounce of dried marijuana and 6 plants. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$25 / \$10 renewal. ALLOWS outside states' marijuana cards.

**Approved Conditions:** Cancer, glaucoma, or positive status for HIV/AIDS, or the treatment of these conditions; a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces cachexia or wasting syndrome, severe or chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures, including seizures caused by epilepsy, or severe or persistent muscle spasms, including spasms caused by multiple sclerosis or Crohn's disease; or any other medical condition or treatment for a medical condition adopted by the department by rule.

**Possession/Cultivation:** A qualifying patient and a qualifying patient's caregiver may each possess six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana. "Usable marijuana" means the dried leaves and flowers of marijuana and any mixture or preparation of marijuana.

Medical Marijuana Program  
Montana Department of Health and Human Services  
Licensure Bureau  
2401 Colonial Drive, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 202953  
Helena, MT 59620-2953  
Phone: 406-444-2676

**Nevada:** [Nevada Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Effective Oct. 1, 2001. **Ballot Question 9** Approved Nov. 7, 2000 by 65% of voters

Allows up to 1 ounce of dried marijuana and 7 plants (3 mature and 4 immature). *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$150 (and up). Does NOT ALLOW outside states' marijuana cards. ([Text of law](#))

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who have "written documentation" from their physician that marijuana may alleviate his or her condition.

**Approved Conditions:** AIDS; cancer; glaucoma; and any medical condition or treatment to a medical condition that produces cachexia, persistent muscle spasms or seizures, severe nausea or pain. Other conditions are subject to approval by the health division of the state Department of Human Resources.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Patients (or their primary caregivers) may legally possess no more than one ounce of usable marijuana, three mature plants, and four immature plants.

**Registry:** The law establishes a confidential state-run patient registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients. Patients who do not join the registry or possess greater amounts of marijuana than allowed by law may argue the "affirmative defense of medical necessity" if they are arrested on marijuana charges. Legislators added a preamble to the legislation stating, "[T]he state of Nevada as a sovereign state has the duty to carry out the will of the people of this state and regulate the health, medical practices and well-being of those people in a manner that respects their personal decisions concerning the relief of suffering through the medical use of

marijuana." A separate provision requires the Nevada School of Medicine to "aggressively" seek federal permission to establish a state-run medical marijuana distribution program.

**Amended:** Assembly Bill 453 (25 KB)

**Effective:** Oct. 1, 2001

Created a state registry for patients prescribed the drug by a licensed physician and the Department of Motor Vehicles would issue identification cards. No state money will be used for the program, which will be funded entirely by donations.

### **Nevada State Health Division**

1000 E William Street  
Suite 209  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Phone: 775-687-7594  
Fax: 775-687-7595

**New Jersey Senate Bill 119** (175 KB)

Approved Jan. 11, 2010 by House (48-14) and by Senate (25-13). Signed into law by Governor Jon Corzine on January 18, 2010. Law states program must be implemented within six months of enactment, but program is not yet implemented.

Allows up to 2 ounces of dried marijuana; does NOT ALLOW growing by individual patients. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is [UNDETERMINED]. ALLOWS outside states' marijuana cards. Protects "qualified patients" who use marijuana to alleviate suffering from debilitating medical conditions, as well as their physicians, primary caregivers, and those who are authorized to produce marijuana for medical purposes" from "arrest, prosecution, property forfeiture, and criminal and other penalties."

Also provides for the creation of alternative treatment centers, "at least two each in the northern, central, and southern regions of the state. The first two centers issued a permit in each region shall be nonprofit entities, and centers subsequently issued permits may be nonprofit or for-profit entities."

**Approved Conditions:** Seizure disorder, including epilepsy, intractable skeletal muscular spasticity, glaucoma; severe or chronic pain, severe nausea or vomiting, cachexia, or wasting syndrome resulting from HIV/AIDS or cancer; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease), multiple sclerosis, terminal cancer, muscular dystrophy, or inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's disease; terminal illness, if the physician has determined a prognosis of less than 12 months of life or any other medical condition or its treatment that is approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Physicians determine how much marijuana a patient needs and give written instructions to be presented to an alternative treatment center. The maximum amount for a 30-day period is two ounces

Department of Health and Senior Services  
P. O. Box 360, Trenton, NJ 08625-0360  
Phone: (609) 292-7837  
Toll-free in NJ: 1-800-367-6543

### **New Mexico:** [New Mexico Medical Cannabis Program](#)

Effective July 1, 2007. "The Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act" (Senate Bill 523) Approved Mar. 13, 2007 (House 36-31, Senate 32-3. **Senate Bill 523** (71 KB)

Allows up to 6 ounces of dried marijuana and 16 plants (4 mature, 12 immature); *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$0. DOES NOT ALLOW outside states' marijuana cards.

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use and possession of marijuana by patients "in a regulated system for alleviating symptoms caused by debilitating medical conditions and their medical treatments." The New Mexico Department of Health designated to administer the program and register patients, caregivers, and providers.

**Approved Conditions:** The 15 current qualifying conditions for medical cannabis are: severe chronic pain, painful peripheral neuropathy, intractable nausea/vomiting, severe anorexia/cachexia, hepatitis C infection, Crohn's disease, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with intractable spasticity, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, and hospice patients.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Patients have the right to possess up to six ounces of usable cannabis, four mature plants and 12 seedlings. Usable cannabis is defined as dried leaves and flowers; it does not include seeds, stalks or roots. A primary caregiver may provide services to a maximum of four qualified patients under the Medical Cannabis Program.

### **New Mexico Department of Health**

1190 St. Francis Drive  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110  
Phone: 505-827-2321

### **Oregon:** [Oregon Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Effective December 3, 1998. **Ballot Measure 67** approved by 55% of the voters on November 3, 1998 ([Text of law](#))

Allows up to 24 ounces of dried marijuana and 24 plants (6 mature, 18 immature); *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$100/ \$20 renewal. DOES NOT ALLOW outside states' marijuana cards. Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess a signed recommendation from their physician stating that marijuana "may mitigate" his or her debilitating symptoms.

**Approved Conditions:** Cancer, glaucoma, positive status for HIV/AIDS, or treatment for these

conditions; A medical condition or treatment for a medical condition that produces cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, including seizures caused by epilepsy, or persistent muscle spasms, including spasms caused by multiple sclerosis. Other conditions are subject to approval by the Health Division of the Oregon Department of Human Resources.

**Possession/Cultivation:** A registry identification cardholder or the designated primary caregiver of the cardholder may possess up to six mature marijuana plants and 24 ounces of usable marijuana. A registry identification cardholder and the designated primary caregiver of the cardholder may possess a combined total of up to 18 marijuana seedlings. (per Oregon Revised Statutes ORS 475.300 -- ORS 475.346) (52 KB)

**Amended:** Senate Bill 1085 (52 KB)

**Effective:** Jan. 1, 2006

State-qualified patients who possess cannabis in amounts exceeding the new state guidelines will no longer retain the ability to argue an "affirmative defense" of medical necessity at trial. Patients who fail to register with the state, but who possess medical cannabis in amounts compliant with state law, still retain the ability to raise an "affirmative defense" at trial. The law also redefines "mature plants" to include only those cannabis plants that are more than 12 inches in height and diameter, and establish a state-registry for those authorized to produce medical cannabis to qualified patients.

**Amended:** House Bill 3052

**Effective:** July 21, 1999

Mandates that patients (or their caregivers) may only cultivate marijuana in one location, and requires that patients must be diagnosed by their physicians at least 12 months prior to an arrest in order to present an "affirmative defense." This bill also states that law enforcement officials who seize marijuana from a patient pending trial do not have to keep those plants alive. Last year the Oregon Board of Health approved agitation due to Alzheimer's disease to the list of debilitating conditions qualifying for legal protection.

In August 2001, program administrators filed established temporary procedures further defining the relationship between physicians and patients. The new rule defines attending physician as "a physician who has established a physician/patient relationship with the patient;... is primarily responsible for the care and treatment of the patients;... has reviewed a patient's medical records at the patient's request, has conducted a thorough physical examination of the patient, has provided a treatment plan and/or follow-up care, and has documented these activities in a patient file."

Oregon Department of Human Services

Medical Marijuana Program

PO Box 14450

Portland, OR 97293-0450

Phone: 971-673-1234

Fax: 971-673-1278

## **Rhode Island: [Rhode Island Medical Marijuana Program](#)**

Effective January 3, 2006. **Senate Bill 0710** was approved by Rhode Island House and Senate, but was then vetoed by the Governor. . ([Text of law](#)) That veto was over-riden by House and Senate vote.

The time line is below:

1. **June 24, 2005:** passed the House 52 to 10
2. **June 28, 2005:** passed the State Senate 33 to 1
3. **June 29, 2005:** Gov. Carcieri vetoed the bill
4. **June 30, 2005:** Senate overrode the veto 28-6
5. **Jan. 3, 2006:** House overrode the veto 59-13 to pass the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act (48 KB) (Public Laws 05-442 and 05-443)
6. **June 21, 2007:** Amended by Senate Bill 791 (SB 791) (30 KB)

Allows up to 2.5 ounces of dried marijuana and 12 plants. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$75/\$10 renewal. ALLOWS outside states' marijuana cards.

**Approved Conditions:** Cancer, glaucoma, positive status for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, or the treatment of these conditions; A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe, debilitating, chronic pain; severe nausea; seizures, including but not limited to, those characteristic of epilepsy; or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to, those characteristic of multiple sclerosis or Crohn's disease; or agitation of Alzheimer's Disease; or any other medical condition or its treatment approved by the state Department of Health.

If you have a medical marijuana registry identification card from any other state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia you may use it in Rhode Island. It has the same force and effect as a card issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Limits the amount of marijuana that can be possessed and grown to up to 12 marijuana plants or 2.5 ounces of cultivated marijuana. Primary caregivers may not possess an amount of marijuana in excess of 24 marijuana plants and five ounces of usable marijuana for qualifying patients to whom he or she is connected through the Department's registration process.

**Amended: H5359 (70 KB) - The Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act**

(substituted for the original bill)

### **Timeline:**

1. **May 20, 2009:** passed the House 63-5
2. **June 6, 2009:** passed the State Senate 31-2

3. **June 12, 2009:** Gov. Carcieri vetoed the bill (60 KB)  
10

4. **June 16, 2009:** Senate overrode the veto 35-3

5. **June 16, 2009:** House overrode the veto 67-0

**Effective:** June 16, 2009

Allows the creation of compassion centers, which may acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, or dispense marijuana, or related supplies and educational materials, to registered qualifying patients and their registered primary caregivers.

### **Rhode Island Department of Health**

Office of Health Professions Regulation, Room 104

3 Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908-5097

Phone: 401-222-2828

### **Vermont:** [Vermont Medical Marijuana Program](#)

Effective July 1, 2004. Vermont Senate Bill 76 (45 KB) was approved 22-7; Vermont House Bill 645 (41 KB) was approved 82.

**"Act Relating to Marijuana Use by Persons with Severe Illness"** (Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 86 (41 KB) passed by the General Assembly) *Gov. James Douglas (R), allowed the act to pass into law unsigned on May 26, 2004*

Allows up to 2 ounces of dried marijuana and 9 plants (2 mature, 7 immature); *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is \$50. DOES NOT ALLOW outside states' marijuana cards.

**Approved Conditions:** Cancer, AIDS, positive status for HIV, multiple sclerosis, or the treatment of these conditions if the disease or the treatment results in severe, persistent, and intractable symptoms; or a disease, medical condition, or its treatment that is chronic, debilitating and produces severe, persistent, and one or more of the following intractable symptoms: cachexia or wasting syndrome, severe pain or nausea or seizures.

**Possession/Cultivation:** No more than two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and two ounces of usable marijuana may be collectively possessed between the registered patient and the patient's registered caregiver. A marijuana plant shall be considered mature when male or female flower buds are readily observed on the plant by unaided visual examination. Until this sexual differentiation has taken place, a marijuana plant will be considered immature.

**Amended:** Senate Bill 00007 (65 KB)

**Effective:** May 30, 2007

### **Marijuana Registry**

Department of Public Safety  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671  
Phone: 802-241-5115

**Washington:** [Washington State Department of Health Medical Marijuana Page](#)

Effective November 3, 1998. **Chapter 69.51A RCW** (4KB) **Ballot Initiative I-692** -- Approved by 59% of voters on Nov. 3, 1998

Allows up to 24 ounces of dried marijuana. *Marijuana ID Card Fee* is [ ]. Does NOT ALLOWS outside states' marijuana cards. ([Text of law](#))

Removes state-level criminal penalties on the use, possession and cultivation of marijuana by patients who possess "valid documentation" from their physician affirming that he or she suffers from a debilitating condition and that the "potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks."

**Approved Conditions:** Cachexia; cancer; HIV or AIDS; epilepsy; glaucoma; intractable pain (defined as pain unrelieved by standard treatment or medications); and multiple sclerosis. Other conditions are subject to approval by the Washington Board of Health.

**Possession/Cultivation:** Patients (or their primary caregivers) may legally possess or cultivate no more than a 60-day supply of marijuana. The law does not establish a state-run patient registry.

**Amended:** Senate Bill 6032 (29 KB)

**Effective:** 2007 (rules being defined by Legislature with a July 1, 2008 due date)

**Amended:** Final Rule (123 KB) based on Significant Analysis (370 KB)

**Effective:** Nov. 2, 2008

**Approved Conditions:** Added Crohn's disease, Hepatitis C with debilitating nausea or intractable pain, diseases, including anorexia, which result in nausea, vomiting, wasting, appetite loss, cramping, seizures, muscle spasms, or spasticity, when those conditions are unrelieved by standard treatments or medications.

**Possession/Cultivation:** A qualifying patient and designated provider may possess a total of no more than twenty-four ounces of usable marijuana, and no more than fifteen plants. This quantity became the state's official "60-day supply" on Nov. 2, 2008.

**[NOTE\*\*\*** On Jan. 21, 2010, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington ruled that Ballot Initiative "I- 692 did not legalize marijuana, but rather provided an authorized user with an

affirmative defense if the user shows compliance with the requirements for medical marijuana possession." *State v. Fry* (125 KB)

**Department of Health**

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