

Good morning Chairman Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Jason Wahl, the Director of the Division of Medical Marijuana within the Department of Health. I am here to support and provide information on House Bill 1119 related to proposed changes to language within the Medical Marijuana chapter of state law.

The changes in the bill assist in providing a more streamlined application process for qualifying patients and designated caregivers by allowing us to accept online payments. While we use an online application for qualifying patients and designated caregivers to become registered, we are only able to accept payments via check. The changes would allow us to accept the \$50 nonrefundable application fee electronically. We also would be able to accept electronic payments for the nonrefundable \$200 application fee for manufacturing facility and dispensary agents.

The current law for the Medical Marijuana Program requires applicants to provide their social security number. This bill would eliminate this requirement. We can verify applicant information through other means without requiring applicants provide their social security numbers. We believe that obtaining and maintaining such information creates a significant unnecessary risk to the applicants and the program.

Applicants who are minors (those under the age of 19), are required to submit a certified copy of their birth record as part of their qualifying patient application. Certain minors may already have a valid North Dakota driver's license or non-driver photo identification. The change proposed in the bill would allow us to accept either the certified copy of the birth record, driver's license, or non-driver photo identification.

Currently, state law requires the individual responsible for making medical decisions for a qualifying patient to reside in North Dakota to complete an application for the qualifying patient. The bill would change this to allow the individual to reside outside of the state. A designated caregiver of the qualifying patient would still be required to reside in the state.

Additional changes included in the bill relate to removing certain requirements that appear redundant or provide clarifying language. These changes would:

- Eliminate the requirement of a designated caregiver applicant to provide the qualifying patient's health care provider's name, address, and telephone number. Such information is obtained directly from health care providers as part of the qualifying patient's application.
- Eliminate the requirement of a manufacturing facility or dispensary applicant eligible for registration to again submit their legal name, articles, and bylaws or operating agreement to obtain their registration certificate. This information is obtained in the application process and the law requires any changes to such information be provided to us.

- Clarify language related to what a laboratory may possess for testing purposes. This change makes the language consistent to other sections in state law as well as the administrative rules.
- Clarify language regarding confidentiality of information submitted in a registration application.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.