

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	George G.
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Updates provisions of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. Adds agitation due to Alzheimer's disease as a qualifying condition. Specifies that "delivery" does not include transfer to a person responsible for grow site. Gives the Department of Human Services (DHS) the authority to conduct criminal background checks for people responsible for grow sites and to deny or revoke a registry identification card based on a court order. Requires program registrants to annually submit documentation that the use of marijuana mitigates symptoms and to return registry card if attending physician determines that treatment with marijuana is contraindicated for their condition. Grants immunity to employees and agents of DHS for activities within the scope of employment related to the medical marijuana program. Specifies that persons manufacturing or producing marijuana at a place other than an authorized grow site are not exempt from criminal charges. Restricts growers to growing for a maximum of four people concurrently. Requires registry cardholders and DHS to notify primary caregiver and persons responsible for grow site of changes in status. Makes certain provisions effective July 1, 2008.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of limiting the number of people a grower can produce for
- Reimbursement received by growers
- Provisions of other related bills
- Importance of notifying caregivers and growers if registrant changes details
- Need for scientific research on the medical uses and effects of marijuana

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds agitation due to Alzheimer's disease as a qualifying condition. Specifies that "delivery" does not include transfer to a person responsible for marijuana grow site. Increases the time a person has to return registry card when a physician indicates that marijuana is contraindicated for the person's condition from seven to thirty days, allowing DHS to give a person additional time if they cannot obtain a second opinion within time limit for reasons beyond their controls. Establishes requirements for registry identification card holder and DHS to notify primary caregiver and persons responsible for grow site of changes in status. Grants immunity to employees and agents of DHS for activities within the scope of employment related to the medical marijuana program. Makes certain provisions effective July 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act was passed by Oregon voters and went into effect in 1998 (Ballot Measure 67.) The Act allows the medical use of marijuana to mitigate symptoms and effects of qualified debilitating medical conditions and protects medical marijuana users who comply with the program requirements from state criminal prosecution for production, possession, or delivery of marijuana. The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program is administered through the Public Health Division of the Department of Human Services. In order to participate in the program, an individual must have an established patient/physician relationship with an attending physician, who provides written documentation that the individual has been diagnosed with a qualified condition and that the use of medical marijuana may mitigate the symptoms of that condition. There are currently 14,030 registered cardholders and 6,733 caregivers in the program.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.