



Object Statement:

The object of this petition is to enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and establishing a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such entities.

Proposed Text of Statutory Initiative Petition:

AN ACT relating to cannabis; to adopt the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Nebraska:

Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act.

Sec. 2. For purposes of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act:

(1)(a) Cannabis means all parts of the plant of the genus cannabis whether growing or not, the seeds thereof, the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin.

(b) Cannabis includes marijuana, hashish, and concentrated cannabis.

(c) Cannabis does not include hemp, as defined in Section 2-503(13) of the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act, nor does it include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination, or cannabidiol contained in a drug product approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration:

(2) Cannabis accessories means any equipment, products, or materials of any kind that are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, composting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, vaporizing, or containing cannabis, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing cannabis into the human body:

(3) Cannabis for medical purposes means cannabis, cannabis products, and cannabis accessories intended for qualified patients pursuant to any law enacted contemporaneously with the adoption of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act or at any time thereafter and which makes penalties inapplicable to the use of cannabis by qualified patients for the alleviation of a medical condition, its symptoms, or side effects of the condition's treatment:

(4) Cannabis products means products that are comprised of cannabis, cannabis concentrate, or cannabis extract, and other ingredients, and that are intended for use or consumption, such as, but not limited to, edible products, ointments, and tinctures:

(5) Commission means the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission:

(6) Registered cannabis establishment means a private entity registered pursuant to the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act that possesses, manufactures, distributes, delivers, or dispenses cannabis for medical purposes; and

(7) Registration means a registration granted by the commission to a private entity that processes, manufactures, distributes, delivers, or dispenses cannabis for medical purposes.

Sec. 3. (1) Subject to the requirements of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, it shall not be an offense under state law for a registered cannabis establishment, its employees,

and its agents to possess, manufacture, distribute, deliver, and dispense cannabis for medical purposes, provided such conduct complies with applicable rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Commission pursuant to the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act.

(2) Conduct protected by this section shall not be subject to the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Sec. 4. (1) For purposes of providing the necessary registration and regulation of persons that possess, manufacture, distribute, deliver, and dispense cannabis for medical purposes pursuant the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission is created.

(2) The commission shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than five members.

(3) The three members of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission shall be ex officio members of the commission, serving terms and receiving appointment in the same manner as provided in section 53-105.

(4) The Governor may appoint two additional members, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members elected to the Legislature, to serve with the members of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission as members of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission. The members appointed pursuant to this subsection shall serve six-year terms.

(5) The Governor may reappoint members of the commission, subject to approval by a majority of the members elected to the Legislature.

Sec. 5. The power to regulate all phases of the control of the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered cannabis establishments in the state pursuant to the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act is vested exclusively in the commission.

Sec. 6. The commission shall:

(1) No later than July 1, 2025, establish criteria to accept or deny applications for registrations, including adopting, promulgating, and enforcing reasonable rules, regulations, and eligibility standards for such registrations;

(2) No later than October 1, 2025, begin granting registrations to applicants that meet eligibility standards and other requirements established by the commission;

(3) Grant, deny, revoke, and suspend registrations based upon reasonable criteria and procedures established by the commission;

(4) Have the authority to adopt, promulgate, and enforce distinct sets of rules and regulations for different categories of registered cannabis establishments;

(5) Administer oaths or affirmations as necessary to carry out the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act;

(6) Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of any records, books, memoranda, documents, or other papers or things at or prior to any hearing as is necessary to enable the commission to effectively discharge its duties;

(7) Inspect the operation of any registered cannabis establishment for the purpose of verifying compliance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission;

(8) Have the authority to impose, subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, administrative fines for each violation of any rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act;

(9) Collect administrative fines imposed under this section and remit the fines to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska;

(10) Establish procedures for the governance of the commission;

(11) Acquire necessary offices, facilities, counsel, and staff; and

(12) Do all things necessary and proper to carry out its powers and duties under the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, including the adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations and such other actions as permitted by the Administrative Procedure Act.

INITIATIVE PETITION

For Secretary of State Use Only

The object of this petition is to: (See reverse side for actual text of measure)

Enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and establishing a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such entities.

To the Honorable Robert Evnen, Secretary of State for the State of Nebraska:

We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the county of _____, respectfully demand that the following proposed law shall be referred to the registered voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election to be held on the 5th day of November 2024, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name; I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and county of _____ and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is required to be filed with the Secretary of State; and my printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written after my signature.

WARNING TO PETITION SIGNERS-- VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF LAW MAY RESULT IN THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES: Any person who signs any name other than his or her own to any petition or who is not qualified to sign the petition shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor. Any person who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit on a petition, who accepts money or other things of value for signing a petition, or who offers money or other things of value in exchange for a signature upon any petition shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

Table with 5 columns: DATE (mm/dd/yy), SIGNATURE, PRINTED NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, ADDRESS (Street Number & Name, City or Village, Zip Code). Rows numbered 1 to 20.

Not more than twenty signatures on one sheet shall be counted. Nebraska Revised Statute §32-1409

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
COUNTY OF _____) ss
_____, (name of circulator) being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he or she is the circulator of this petition containing _____ signatures, that he or she is at least eighteen years of age, that each person whose name appears on the petition personally signed the petition in the presence of the affiant, that the date to the left of each signature is the correct date on which the signature was affixed to the petition and that the date was personally affixed by the person signing such petition, that the affiant believes that each signer has written his or her name, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address correctly, that the affiant believes that each signer was qualified to sign the petition, and that the affiant stated to each signer the object of the petition as printed on the petition before he or she affixed his or her signature to the petition.

_____, Circulator's Signature
_____, Address
_____, City, State, Zip

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this _____ day of _____, 20__ at _____, Nebraska.
(City or village of notarial act.)

(Seal)

_____, Notary Public's Signature

Proposed Statutory Language:

(underscored language indicates added language, strike through indicates language being removed)

A BILL

AN ACT relating to cannabis; to adopt the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act.

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(6) Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of any records, books, memoranda, documents, or other papers or things at or prior to any hearing as is necessary to enable the commission to effectively discharge its duties;

(7) Inspect the operation of any registered cannabis establishment for the purpose of verifying compliance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission;

(8) Have the authority to impose, subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, administrative fines for each violation of any rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act;

(9) Collect administrative fines imposed under this section and remit the fines to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska;

(10) Establish procedures for the governance of the commission;

(11) Acquire necessary offices, facilities, counsel, and staff; and

(12) Do all things necessary and proper to carry out its powers and duties under the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, including the adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations and such other actions as permitted by the Administrative Procedure Act.