

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 247

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARINO

A RESOLUTION

To continue and provide with respect to the special legislative commission on medical marijuana created by House Resolution No. 113 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, through House Resolution No. 113 of the 2021 Regular Session, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana created a special legislative commission to study the laws and regulations of this state pertaining to cultivation, extraction, pharmaceutical and therapeutic use, distribution, and researching of marijuana and to evaluate and identify best practices and regulatory improvements to effectuate the legislatively authorized expansion of Louisiana's medical marijuana program; and

WHEREAS, the special commission held public meetings on August 27, October 1, October 29, and November 18, 2021, at which all major aspects of Louisiana's medical marijuana program were vetted; and

WHEREAS, through its work, the special commission has proven itself a valuable resource to the legislature and the public as policy issues relating to medical marijuana draw increasing levels of interest from a diverse array of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, in this 2022 Regular Session, the legislature has considered numerous proposals for reforming our state's regulatory systems for medical marijuana production and dispensing; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of filing of this Resolution, House Bill No. 697 of this 2022 Regular Session, a bill proposing significant reforms to Louisiana's essential medical marijuana regulatory functions, has achieved final passage in both the House and Senate with over a two-thirds majority of the elected members of the legislature voting yea on the measure; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that patient access to medical marijuana does not diminish during the implementation of any regulatory reforms that may be enacted in law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby continue the special legislative commission on medical marijuana created by House Resolution No. 113 of the 2021 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the special commission shall continue as provided in House Resolution No. 113 of the 2021 Regular Session, and that the special commission shall have the additional duty of oversight and monitoring of the transition of any medical marijuana regulatory function of this state for the purpose of ensuring that patient access to medical marijuana in Louisiana continues uninterrupted or improves through the transition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, Department of Economic Development, Louisiana Department of Revenue, and legislative auditor may continue to provide to the special commission any support necessary for the commission to perform its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special commission shall report its findings and recommendations concerning medical marijuana policy and regulation to the speaker of the House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the commissioner of agriculture, the executive director of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue, and the legislative auditor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES