

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 460**

**2023 Regular Session**

**Robert Owen**

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Provides relative to the dispensing of medical marijuana.**

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DIGEST

Present law authorizes a marijuana pharmacy license holder to open a satellite pharmacy once the active patient count at the primary pharmacy reaches 3,500. Once the active patient count at both the primary pharmacy and the first satellite pharmacy reaches 3,500, the license holder for that region is allowed to open a second satellite location. Proposed law authorizes the license holder of marijuana pharmacy in a region to open the first satellite pharmacy once the primary pharmacy reaches 3,500. The license holder may open a second pharmacy when the active patient count reaches 7,000 for the region.

Proposed law requires the La. Board of Pharmacy (board) to notify a license holder once he becomes eligible to open a first or second satellite pharmacy.

Proposed law requires the license holder to submit an application to open a satellite pharmacy no later than 90 days after receipt of the notification sent by the board. The satellite pharmacy must be operational within 310 days from the date of notification of eligibility; however, the board may grant additional time for the satellite location to become operational due to a circumstance beyond the control of the licensee.

Present law provides that no marijuana pharmacy shall be located within a 15-mile radius of another marijuana pharmacy. Proposed law limits the prohibition to no marijuana pharmacy shall be located within a 15-mile radius of another license holder's marijuana pharmacy.

Present law provides for the calculation of active patient counts once in a 12-month period using the preceding year from August 1st through July 31st. Proposed law requires the calculation of active patient counts to be done quarterly using the preceding three-month period.

Present law defines an active, qualified patient as a patient that has acquired therapeutic marijuana once in the preceding 12-month period from August 1st to July 31st. Proposed law expands the definition to include any patient that has acquired therapeutic marijuana once.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:1046(G)(3)(a)-(c), and (e), (6)(a)-(c), and (8))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Make technical corrections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill

1. Clarify the start of the time period for a license holder to file an application to open a satellite location.
2. Allow the La. Board of Pharmacy to grant additional time for a satellite location to become operational due to a circumstance beyond the control of the licensee.

3. Remove proposed law provisions relative to transfers of ownership.
4. Make technical changes.