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## DIGEST

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HB 158 Original

2020 Regular Session

Marino

**Abstract:** Authorizes the recommendation of medical marijuana to patients by physicians for treating several neurodegenerative diseases and conditions.

Present law authorizes physicians who are licensed by and in good standing with the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to recommend medical marijuana for therapeutic use by patients clinically diagnosed as suffering from a debilitating medical condition. Defines "debilitating medical condition" to mean cancer, glaucoma, Parkinson's disease, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, cachexia or wasting syndrome, seizure disorders, epilepsy, spasticity, severe muscle spasms, intractable pain, Crohn's disease, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, post traumatic stress disorder, and certain conditions associated with autism spectrum disorder.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the following neurodegenerative diseases and conditions to the set of debilitating medical conditions which qualify a patient for a recommendation of medical marijuana:

- (1) Alzheimer's disease.
- (2) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- (3) Huntington's disease.
- (4) Lewy body dementia.
- (5) Motor neuron disease.
- (6) Spinal muscular atrophy.

(Amends R.S. 40:1046(A)(2)(a)(iii))