
DIGEST

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HB 698 Original

2022 Regular Session

Magee

Abstract: Provides for fees and charges to be assessed by the La. Department of Health and La. Board of Pharmacy in connection with regulation of production and testing of marijuana for therapeutic use.

Present law establishes and provides for a regulatory system for marijuana for therapeutic use, known commonly as medical marijuana. Within this system, present law requires the La. Board of Pharmacy (board) to adopt administrative rules relating to dispensing of marijuana for therapeutic use.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that such rules of the board include establishment of a reasonable fee schedule for testing of therapeutic marijuana samples.

Proposed law provides that the board may collect the following nonrefundable charges to fund expenses associated with regulation and control of therapeutic marijuana:

- (1) An annual license charge of \$50,000 to each contractor permitted to cultivate, extract, process, produce, and transport therapeutic marijuana.
- (2) A charge of no more than \$10,000 for services related to the initial inspection of a therapeutic marijuana laboratory.
- (3) A charge of no more than \$10,000 for services related to a subsequent inspection of a therapeutic marijuana laboratory.
- (4) A charge of no more than \$10,000 for services related to at least one annual renewal inspection.

Present law requires that the La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry collect from licensed producers of therapeutic marijuana an annual license fee of \$100,000 and an annual permit fee of \$100 for administrative and inspection costs.

Proposed law revises present law to require instead that the La. Department of Health collect an annual license fee of \$50,000 from each contractor permitted to cultivate, extract, process, produce, and transport therapeutic marijuana and an annual permit fee of \$100 from each person who is subject to the provisions of present law relative to suitability and background checks in connection with production of therapeutic marijuana.

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

(Amends R.S. 40:1046(C)(2)(intro. para.) and (H)(8)(a)(intro. para.), (i), and (b); Adds R.S. 40:1046(C)(2)(m) and (H)(8)(c) and (d))