



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 977 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Rick Jones
Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act to remove glaucoma from the Act's list of debilitating medical conditions.

The Act requires the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to issue registry identification cards to qualifying patients and primary caregivers who submit certain information in accordance with the Department's rules. A qualifying patient or primary caregiver who has been issued and possesses a registry identification card is not subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty for the medical use of marihuana if the amount does not exceed quantities specified in the Act and the possession and use of marihuana meet specified standards.

A "qualifying patient" is a person who has been diagnosed by a physician as having a "debilitating medical condition". The bill would delete glaucoma from the list of debilitating medical conditions. The bill specifies that, on and after its effective date, glaucoma or its treatment would not be a debilitating medical condition for purposes of issuing or receiving a registry identification card. The bill also would prohibit LARA from including glaucoma or its treatment in the list of debilitating medical conditions under the Act.

In addition, the bill would retain requirements that the Department promulgate rules, but would delete requirements that the rules be promulgated within 120 days after the Act's effective date.

MCL 333.26423 & 333.26425

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate effect on the State's finances. Under the bill, individuals suffering from glaucoma would no longer be able to apply for and receive a medical marijuana card. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs would lose the \$100 (\$25 if the patient is on Medicaid, or receiving SSI or SSD) application and renewal fees from those who would no longer qualify for the program. Department staff also would no longer have to do the work that is associated with processing these applications, so some savings would result. It is not clear whether the amount of revenue lost would exceed the savings, so the fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate.

Date Completed: 3-21-12

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton