

The House Committee on Judiciary Non-civil offers the following substitute to HB 1:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 public health and morals, so as to provide for the possession of low THC oil under certain  
3 circumstances; to provide for definitions; to provide for penalties; to amend Title 31 of the  
4 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to create a registration within  
5 the Department of Public Health for patients or their caregivers who are authorized to possess  
6 low THC oil; to define certain terms; to provide for registration cards; to provide for  
7 procedure; to create the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis; to provide for  
8 membership; to provide for procedures; to provide for duties and responsibilities; to provide  
9 for an automatic repeal; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide  
10 for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11                   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

12                   **PART I**  
13                   **SECTION 1-1.**

14 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Haleigh's Hope Act."

15                   **SECTION 1-2.**

16 Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to offenses against  
17 public health and morals, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

18                   "ARTICLE 8

19                   16-12-190.

20                   As used in this article, the term 'low THC oil' means an oil that contains cannabidiol and  
21                   not more than 5 percent by weight of tetrahydrocannabinol.

22 16-12-191.

23 (a)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 13 of this title, it shall be lawful for any  
24 person to possess or have under his or her control 20 fluid ounces or less of low THC oil  
25 if:

26 (A) Such person is registered with the Department of Public Health as set forth in  
27 Code Section 31-2A-18;

28 (B) Such person has in his or her possession a registration card issued by the  
29 Department of Public Health; and

30 (C) Such substance is in a pharmaceutical container labeled by the manufacturer  
31 indicating the percentage of tetrahydrocannabinol therein.

32 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 13 of this title, any person who possesses  
33 or has under his or her control 20 fluid ounces or less of low THC oil without complying  
34 with subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be punished  
35 as for a misdemeanor.

36 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 13 of this title, any person having possession  
37 of or under his or her control more than 20 fluid ounces of low THC oil but less than 160  
38 fluid ounces of low THC oil or who manufactures, distributes, dispenses, sells, or possesses  
39 with the intent to distribute low THC oil shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction  
40 thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years,  
41 a fine not to exceed \$50,000.00, or both.

42 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 13 of this title, any person who sells,  
43 manufactures, delivers, brings into this state, or has possession of 160 or more fluid ounces  
44 of low THC oil shall be guilty of the felony offense of trafficking in low THC oil and, upon  
45 conviction, shall be punished as follows:

46 (1) If the quantity of low THC oil is at least 160 fluid ounces but less than 31,000  
47 ounces, by imprisonment for not less than five years nor more than ten years and a fine  
48 not to exceed \$100,000.00;

49 (2) If the quantity of low THC oil is at least 31,000 fluid ounces but less than 154,000  
50 ounces, by imprisonment for not less than seven years nor more than 15 years and a fine  
51 not to exceed \$250,000.00; and

52 (3) If the quantity of low THC oil is 154,000 or more fluid ounces, by imprisonment for  
53 not less than ten years nor more than 20 years and a fine not to exceed \$1 million."

54

**PART II**

55

**SECTION 2-1.**

56 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended in Article  
57 2A, relating to the Department of Public Health, by adding a new Code section to read as  
58 follows:

59 "31-2A-18.

60 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

61 (1) 'Board' means the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

62 (2) 'Caregiver' means the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a patient who is less than  
63 18 years of age or the legal guardian of an adult patient.

64 (3) 'Condition' means:

65 (A) Cancer;

66 (B) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;

67 (C) Seizure disorders;

68 (D) Multiple sclerosis;

69 (E) Crohn's disease;

70 (F) Mitochondrial disease;

71 (G) Fibromyalgia; or

72 (H) Parkinson's disease.

73 (4) 'Department' means the Department of Public Health.

74 (5) 'Low THC oil' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 16-12-190.

75 (6) 'Physician' means an individual licensed to practice medicine pursuant to Article 2  
76 of Chapter 34 of Title 43.

77 (7) 'Registry' means the Low THC Oil Patient Registry.

78 (b) There is established within the department the Low THC Oil Patient Registry.

79 (c) The purpose of the registry is to provide a registration of individuals or their caregivers  
80 who have been issued registration cards. The department shall establish procedures and  
81 promulgate rules and regulations for the establishment and operation of the registration  
82 process and dispensing of registry cards to patients and caregivers. Only patients and  
83 caregivers residing in this state shall be eligible for registration under this Code section.

84 (d) On and after September 1, 2015, the department shall issue a registration card to  
85 individuals or their caregivers when a patient has been certified to the department by his  
86 or her physician as being diagnosed with a condition and has been authorized by such  
87 physician to use low THC oil as treatment for such condition. The board shall establish  
88 procedures and promulgate rules and regulations to assist physicians in providing required  
89 uniform information relating to certification and any other matter relating to the issuance

of certifications. In promulgating such rules and regulations, the board shall require that physicians have a doctor-patient relationship when certifying a patient as needing low THC oil and physicians shall be required to be treating a patient for the specific condition requiring such treatment. The board shall require physicians to issue quarterly reports to the board. Such reports shall require physicians to provide information, including, but not limited to, dosages recommended for a particular condition; patient clinical responses; patient compliance; patient response to treatment; patient side effects; and drug interactions.

(e) Information received and records kept by the department for purposes of administering this Code section shall be confidential; provided, however, that such information shall be disclosed:

(1) Upon written request of a patient or caregiver registered pursuant to this Code section; and

(2) To peace officers for the purpose of:

(A) Verifying that an individual in possession of a registration card is registered pursuant to this Code section; or

(B) Determining that an individual in possession of low THC oil is registered pursuant to this Code section."

### PART III

#### SECTION 3-1.

Said title is further amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

#### "CHAPTER 50

31-50-1.

(a) There is created the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis.

(b) As used in this chapter, the term 'commission' means the Georgia Commission on Medical Cannabis.

31-50-2.

(a) The commission shall consist of 16 members. The director of the Governor's Office for Children and Families, the director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, the commissioner of agriculture, and the Governor's executive counsel shall be permanent members of the commission. The permanent members of the commission may designate another individual to serve in his

122 or her stead. The remaining members of the commission shall be appointed by the  
123 Governor on or before July 1, 2015. The remaining members shall be:

124 (1) Two members of the Senate;

125 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives;

126 (3) A board certified oncologist;

127 (4) A board certified epitologist;

128 (5) A board certified neurologist;

129 (6) A pharmacist;

130 (7) An attorney employed by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia  
131 or a prosecuting attorney;

132 (8) A sheriff; and

133 (9) A police chief.

134 (b) In the event of death, resignation, disqualification, or removal for any reason of any  
135 member of the commission, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
136 appointment, and the successor shall serve for the unexpired term.

137 (c) Membership on the commission shall not constitute public office, and no member shall  
138 be disqualified from holding public office by reason of his or her membership.

139 (d) The Governor shall designate a chairperson of the commission from among the  
140 members, which chairperson shall serve in that position at the pleasure of the Governor.  
141 The chairperson shall only vote to break a tie. The commission may elect such other  
142 officers and committees as it considers appropriate.

143 (e) The commission, with the approval of the Governor, may employ such professional,  
144 technical, or clerical personnel as deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
145 chapter. The commission may create committees from among its membership as well as  
146 appoint other persons to serve in an advisory capacity to the commission in implementing  
147 this chapter.

148 (f) The commission shall be attached for administrative purposes only to the Governor's  
149 Office for Children and Families in accordance with Code Section 50-4-3. The Governor's  
150 Office for Children and Families may use any funds specifically appropriated to it to  
151 support the work of the commission.

152 31-50-3.

153 (a) The commission may conduct meetings at such places and times as it deems necessary  
154 or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties,  
155 and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this chapter. The commission shall hold  
156 meetings at the call of the chairperson.

157 (b) A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the members of the  
158 commission.

159 (c) Any legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for  
160 in Code Section 28-1-8. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the  
161 amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 as well as the mileage or  
162 transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Members of the commission who  
163 are state officials, other than legislative members, or state employees shall receive no  
164 compensation for their services on the commission, but shall be reimbursed for expenses  
165 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the commission in the same  
166 manner as reimbursements are made in their capacity as state officials or state employees.  
167 The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than  
168 legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or  
169 otherwise available to their respective departments.

170 31-50-4.

171 (a) The commission shall have the following duties:

172 (1) To establish comprehensive recommendations regarding the potential regulation of  
173 medical cannabis in this state. Such recommendations shall include, without limitations,  
174 specification of the department or departments to have responsibility for the oversight of  
175 a state-sanctioned system related to medical cannabis. A detailed report, which shall be  
176 submitted no later than December 31, 2015, including a review of the conditions, needs,  
177 issues, and problems related to medical cannabis and any recommended action or  
178 proposed legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate shall be  
179 provided to the executive counsel of the Governor, the Office of Planning and Budget,  
180 and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate  
181 Appropriations Committee, the House Committee on Judiciary, Non-civil, and the Senate  
182 Judiciary, Non-civil Committee; and

183 (2) To evaluate and consider the best practices, experiences, and results of legislation in  
184 other states with regard to medical cannabis.

185 (b) The commission shall have the following powers:

186 (1) To evaluate how the laws and programs affecting medical cannabis should operate  
187 in this state;

188 (2) To request and receive data from and review the records of appropriate state agencies  
189 to the greatest extent allowed by state and federal law;

190 (3) To authorize entering into contracts or agreements through the commission's  
191 chairperson necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;

192 (4) To establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the commission; and

(5) To conduct studies, hold public meetings, collect data, or take any other action the commission deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

195 (c) Subject to the availability of funds, the commission shall be authorized to retain the  
196 services of attorneys, consultants, subject matter experts, economists, budget analysts, data  
197 analysts, statisticians, and other individuals or organizations as determined appropriate by  
198 the commission.

199      31-50-5.

200 This chapter shall stand repealed on June 30, 2016."

## PART IV

### SECTION 4-1.

203 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
204 without such approval.

## **SECTION 4-2.**

206 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.