

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 65:

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
 2 relating to general provisions relative to the Department of Public Health, so as to provide  
 3 for the creation of the Joint Study Commission on THC Medical Oil Access; to provide for  
 4 an automatic repealer; to provide for recommendations by the Georgia Composite Medical  
 5 Board on additional conditions that may be treated by low THC oil; to repeal conflicting  
 6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 10 general provisions relative to the Department of Public Health, is amended by adding a new  
 11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "31-2A-18.1.

13 (a) The Joint Study Commission on THC Medical Oil Access is hereby created. The  
 14 commission shall study the in-state access of medical cannabis, THC oil, including, but not  
 15 limited to, the security and control of all aspects of the process from acquisition and  
 16 planting of seeds to final destruction of any unused portion of the plant; quality control of  
 17 all aspects of the manufacturing process, including, but not limited to, product labeling and  
 18 independent testing for purity and safety; and all aspects of dispensing the final product,  
 19 including, but not limited to, security, competency of the dispensing staff, training on  
 20 dosing, and proper delivery methods. The commission shall study and identify how to  
 21 ensure proper security safeguards and systems for evaluating qualifications of potential  
 22 licensees and contain a plan to ensure that THC oil is readily available in all parts of the  
 23 state at an affordable price to patients and caregivers who are properly registered in the  
 24 state.

25 (b) The commission shall be composed of ten members.

26 (1) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members  
 27 of the commission and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The

28 President of the Senate shall also appoint two citizens of this state to serve as members;  
 29 and  
 30 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the  
 31 House of Representatives as members of the commission and shall designate one of such  
 32 members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also  
 33 appoint two citizens of this state to serve as members.  
 34 (c) The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission. The commission may  
 35 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
 36 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
 37 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.  
 38 (d) The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for  
 39 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Any members of the  
 40 commission who are not legislators shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount  
 41 the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code  
 42 of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for  
 43 state employees. The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be  
 44 received by any member of the commission for more than five days unless additional days  
 45 are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
 46 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.  
 47 (e) The commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 48 legislation, no later than December 31, 2018, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
 49 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and chairperson of the Senate Health and Human  
 50 Services and the House Committee on Health and Human Services.  
 51 (f) The commission shall stand abolished and this Code section shall stand repealed by  
 52 operation of law on December 31, 2018."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 Said article is further amended in Code Section 31-2A-18, relating to the establishment of  
 55 the Low THC Oil Patient Registry, definitions, purpose, registration cards, semiannual  
 56 reports, and waiver forms, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

57 "(h) The board shall annually review the conditions included in paragraph (3) of  
 58 subsection (a) of this Code section and recommend additional conditions that have been  
 59 shown through medical research to be effectively treated with low THC oil. Such  
 60 recommendations shall include recommended dosages for a particular condition, patient  
 61 responses to treatment with respect to the particular condition, and drug interactions with  
 62 other drugs commonly taken by patients with the particular condition. Such

63 recommendations shall be made to the General Assembly no later than December 1 of each  
64 year."

65 **SECTION 3.**

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