

## **An overview of expansion of medical marijuana law**

### **Patients & Providers**

- Revises requirements authorizing a patient for medical cannabis
- Changes ‘debilitating medical condition’ to ‘qualifying medical condition’
- Adds additional qualifying conditions (chronic pain)
- Provides that cannabis may be used as a treatment of first resort for any condition on the list
- Allow any physician — not just those who register — to prescribe cannabis for any diagnosed condition.
- Expands list of professionals who can authorize patients for medical use of cannabis to include physician assistants and advance practice nurses
- Revises permissible forms of medical cannabis distribution.
- Removes provision that limits access to edible forms to qualifying patients who are minors
- Specifies that medical cannabis may be distributed in transdermal, sublingual, and tincture forms

### **Dispensing**

- Removes the current requirement for patients to register with a single ATC.
- Provides that, prior to dispensing, a dispensary or clinical registrant is required to check the database to determine whether the patient was dispensed medical cannabis in the past 30 days from any dispensary or clinical registrant.
- Revises quantity limits for 30-day supply to two ounces until January 1, 2019, 2.5 ounces until July 1, 2019, and Three ounces thereafter.
- No maximum 30-day supply limit for hospice care patients and terminally ill patients (prognosis of less than 12 months of life). Total amount that may be authorized at one time increased to one year supply.
- Requires dispensary or clinical registrant to report to authorizing practitioner the amount, strain, and form of medical cannabis that was dispensed.

### **Taxation/Oversight**

- Phases out sales tax on medical cannabis over several years: Current tax: 6.625%; reduced to 5% beginning July 1, 2020, 3% in 2022; 1% in 2023; no tax beginning July 1, 2023.
- All authority over the medical cannabis program would transfer to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission when the members of the CRC are appointed and the CRC first organizes.