

Assembly Bill No. 26

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB26)

- This bill would enact the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Control Act and would create the Division of Medical Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement within the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The bill would grant the department the power to register persons for the cultivation, manufacture, testing, transportation, storage, distribution, and sale of medical cannabis within the state provided that the authority of a city or county to adopt ordinances inconsistent with the requirements of the act that ban, regulate, or tax medical cannabis activities, and to enforce those ordinances, would not be affected by the act. The bill would provide that the director and persons employed by the department to administer and enforce its provisions are peace officers. The bill would prescribe requirements for the issuance, renewal, suspension, and revocation of mandatory commercial registrations and fees in relation to these activities. The bill would permit the department to assist statewide taxation authorities in the development of uniform policies for state taxation of mandatory commercial medical cannabis registrants and to assist in the development of regulation in connection with work safety in this industry. The bill would authorize the division to establish a grant program for the purpose of funding medical cannabis regulation and enforcement.
- The bill would establish the Medical Cannabis Regulation Fund and would require deposit of fees into the fund. The bill would continuously appropriate moneys within the fund to the division for the purposes of administering the program. The bill would require the deposit of penalty money into the General Fund.
- The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2017, to issue regulations as necessary for the implementation and enforcement of mandatory commercial medical cannabis registration, as specified, including requirements analogous to statutory environmental, agricultural, consumer protection, and food and product safety requirements. The bill would require the department to administer and enforce these requirements. The bill would prescribe requirements for provisional registrations to be operative January 1, 2016. The bill would prohibit approval of a mandatory commercial registration for specified reasons, including if a licensed physician making patient recommendations for medical cannabis is an interested party in the proposed operation, and would prohibit a physician from recommending medical cannabis to a patient while he or she is a mandatory commercial registrant, or associated, as specified, with a mandatory commercial registrant. The bill would prohibit a registrant from holding a registration in more than one class of medical cannabis activities.
- The bill would require a registrant to keep various records in connections with medical cannabis activities and would prescribe requirements for making records available to the department and any state or local agency. The bill would provide that certain patient and caregiver information is excluded from disclosure to the public. The bill would provide that the act does not apply to the protections granted to a patient or primary caregiver acting pursuant to the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 and would exempt these parties from the application of the act, provided they act consistently with specified requirements. The bill would provide that the actions of a mandatory commercial registrant or provisional registrant, its employees, and its agents that are permitted pursuant to a valid mandatory commercial registration issued by the division and that are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the act are not unlawful under state law, as specified. The bill would provide a similar state law immunity for a property owner who allows his or her property to be used by a mandatory commercial registrant or provisional registrant.
- The bill would require the department to work in conjunction with law enforcement entities throughout the state to implement and enforce the rules and regulations regarding medical cannabis and to take appropriate action against businesses and individuals that fail to comply with

the law. The bill would prohibit, on and after January 1, 2017, a person other than a mandatory commercial registrant from selling cannabis or cannabis products or performing other actions related to cannabis, except as specified. The bill would provide that its provisions do not prevent specified city or county actions, including zoning ordinances banning or regulating the location, operation, or establishment of a commercial registrant. The bill would make certain violations of its provisions a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The bill would establish requirements for the transportation of medical cannabis. The bill would specify that its provisions are severable.

- The bill would specify that recommending marijuana to patients without a good faith examination and medical reason or recommending marijuana for nonmedical purposes is unprofessional conduct. The bill would provide that specified acts of recommending marijuana without a good faith examination are among the types of cases that should be given priority for investigation and prosecution by the Medical Board of California, as described above. The bill would also specify that employment by, or an agreement with, a mandatory medical cannabis registrant to provide recommendations for medical marijuana constitutes unprofessional conduct. By broadening the definition of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would repeal, 90 days after the department posts a specified notice on its Internet Web site, the provisions described above prohibiting prosecution of qualified patients, persons with valid identification cards, and designated primary caregivers who associate in California, collectively or cooperatively, to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes.
- Existing law authorizes the board of supervisors of a county and the governing body of a city to impose various taxes, including a transactions and use tax at a rate of 0.25%, or a multiple thereof, if approved by the required vote of the board or governing body and the required vote of qualified voters, and limits the combined rate of transactions and use taxes within a city or county to 2%.
- This bill would authorize the board of supervisors of a county to impose, by ordinance, a tax on the privilege of cultivating, dispensing, producing, processing, preparing, storing, providing, donating, selling, or distributing cannabis or cannabis products, including a transactions and use tax at any rate specified by the board. The bill would authorize the tax to be imposed for either general or specific governmental purposes. The bill would require a tax imposed pursuant to this authority to be subject to any applicable voter approval requirement.