

STATE OF NEW YORK

6972

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 27, 2025

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the cannabis law and the public health law, in relation to the course required to be taken by practitioners certifying patients as eligible for medical cannabis and establishing the endocannabinoid system awareness program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 30 of the cannabis law is amended
2 and a new subdivision 11 is added to read as follows:

3 10. (a) Prior to issuing a certification a practitioner must complete,
4 at a minimum, a two-hour course as determined by the board in
5 regulation; provided, however, that such course shall, at a minimum,
6 meet the requirements of paragraph (c) of this subdivision. For the
7 purposes of this article a person's status as a practitioner is deemed
8 to be a "license" for the purposes of section thirty-three hundred nine-
9 ty of the public health law and shall be subject to the same revocation
10 process.

11 (b) The office shall approve at least one, if not more, course for
12 practitioners seeking to certify patients for medical cannabis, which
13 shall be a minimum of two hours in duration.

14 (c) The educational content of such course or courses shall include:
15 the pharmacology of cannabis; contraindications; side effects; adverse
16 reactions; overdose prevention; drug interactions; dosing; routes of
17 administration; risks and benefits; warnings and precautions; abuse and
18 dependence; and such other components as determined by the office.

19 11. The office shall provide information on the office's website on
20 the endocannabinoid system awareness program established pursuant to
21 section thirty-three sixty-a of the public health law, including the
22 information and guidance established pursuant to subdivision two of such
23 section.

24 § 2. Subdivision 12 of section 3360 of the public health law, as added
25 by chapter 90 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 12. "Practitioner" means a practitioner who (i) is a physician
2 licensed by New York state and practicing within the state, (ii) who by
3 training or experience is qualified to treat a serious condition as
4 defined in subdivision seven of this section; and (iii) has completed a
5 two to four hour course as [~~determined by the commissioner in regu-~~
6 ~~lation~~] required pursuant to section thirty-three hundred sixty-one of
7 this title and section thirty of the cannabis law and registered with
8 the department; provided however, a registration shall not be denied
9 without cause. Such course may count toward board certification require-
10 ments. The commissioner shall consider the inclusion of nurse practi-
11 tioners under this title based upon considerations including access and
12 availability. After such consideration the commissioner is authorized to
13 deem nurse practitioners as practitioners under this title.

14 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 3361 of the public
15 health law, as added by chapter 90 of the laws of 2014, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (a) a practitioner has been registered with the department to issue a
18 certification as determined by the commissioner and has completed the
19 two-hour course required pursuant to subdivision ten of section thirty
20 of the cannabis law;

21 § 4. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3360-a
22 to read as follows:

23 § 3360-a. Endocannabinoid system awareness program. 1. There is hereby
24 established within the department the endocannabinoid system awareness
25 program which shall educate health care practitioners regarding the
26 endocannabinoid system and how it interacts with other bodily systems.

27 2. The commissioner, in consultation with the office of cannabis
28 management, shall establish and distribute to health care practitioners
29 comprehensive information and guidance regarding the endocannabinoid
30 system and how it interacts with other bodily functions. Such informa-
31 tion and guidance shall include, but not be limited to, the following
32 topics:

33 (a) the endocannabinoid system;

34 (b) cannabinoids, chronic pain and opioids;

35 (c) pharmacogenetics and cannabis;

36 (d) federal food and drug administration (FDA) approved cannabinoid
37 medications;

38 (e) risks, benefits, and impacts of cannabis consumption on pathways;
39 and

40 (f) interactions of cannabis with other medications.

41 3. The department shall:

42 (a) inform health care practitioners of the need to be aware of the
43 endocannabinoid system and how it interacts with other bodily functions;
44 and

45 (b) provide information on the department's website on the endocanna-
46 binoid system awareness program, including the information and guidance
47 established pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

48 § 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
49 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to
50 title 5-A of article 33 of the public health law made by section four of
51 this act, shall not affect the repeal of such title and shall be deemed
52 repealed therewith. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment
53 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
54 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
55 completed on or before such effective date.