STATE OF NEW YORK

6972--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 27, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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 endo-cannabinoid system awareness program

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

Section 1. Subdivision 8 of section 30 of the cannabis law, as amended by chapter 544 of the laws of 2025, is amended and a new subdivision 9 is added to read as follows:

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

(b) The office shall approve at least one course for practitioners seeking to certify patients for medical cannabis, which shall be a minimum of two hours in duration.

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

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

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9. The office shall provide information on the office's website on the endocannabinoid system awareness program established pursuant to section fifty of this chapter, including the information and guidance established pursuant to subdivision two of such section.

§ 2. The cannabis law is amended by adding a new article 3-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3-A
ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM AWARENESS PROGRAM

Section 50. Endocannabinoid system awareness program.

§ 50. Endocannabinoid system awareness program. 1. There is hereby established within the office, in consultation with the department of health, the endocannabinoid system awareness program which shall create educational materials for health care practitioners regarding the endocannabinoid system and how it interacts with other bodily systems.

2. The executive director, in consultation with the commissioner of health, shall create comprehensive information and guidance regarding the endocannabinoid system and how it interacts with other bodily functions. Such information and guidance shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

(a) the endocannabinoid system;

(b) cannabinoids, chronic pain and opioids;

(c) pharmacogenetics and cannabis;

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

(e) risks, benefits, and impacts of cannabis consumption on body systems; and

(f) interactions of cannabis with other medications.

§ 3. Section 206 of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision 32 to read as follows:

32. The commissioner shall:

(a) send guidance to health care practitioners on the need to be aware of the endocannabinoid system and how it interacts with other bodily functions; and

(b) provide information on the department's website on the endocannabinoid system awareness program, including the information and guidance established pursuant to subdivision two of section fifty of the cannabis law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.