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:

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

10. **(a)** Prior to issuing a certification a practitioner must complete, at a minimum, a two-hour course 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, if not more, 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.

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

§ 2. Subdivision 12 of section 3360 of the public health law, as added 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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12. "Practitioner" means a practitioner who (i) is a physician licensed by New York state and practicing within the state, (ii) who by training or experience is qualified to treat a serious condition as defined in subdivision seven of this section; and (iii) has completed a two to four hour course as [~~determined by the commissioner in regulation~~] **required pursuant to section thirty-three hundred sixty-one of this title and section thirty of the cannabis law** and registered with the department; provided however, a registration shall not be denied without cause. Such course may count toward board certification requirements. The commissioner shall consider the inclusion of nurse practitioners under this title based upon considerations including access and availability. After such consideration the commissioner is authorized to deem nurse practitioners as practitioners under this title.

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

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

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

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

2. The commissioner, in consultation with the office of cannabis management, shall establish and distribute to health care practitioners 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 pathways; and

(f) interactions of cannabis with other medications.

3. The department shall:

(a) inform health care practitioners of 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 this section.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to title 5-A of article 33 of the public health law made by section four of this act, shall not affect the repeal of such title and shall be deemed repealed therewith. 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.