# STATE OF NEW YORK

6972--A

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 -- 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 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 two hundred fifty-two of the public health law, including the**

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

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information and guidance established pursuant to subdivision two of such section.

§ 2. Article 2 of the public health law is amended by adding a new title 4-A to read as follows:

## TITLE IV-A
## ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM AWARENESS PROGRAM

Section 252. Endocannabinoid system awareness program.

§ 252. 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 body systems; 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.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day 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.