



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2023 – 600
October 5, 2023

Across the Commonwealth, our citizens suffer from a multitude of serious medical conditions from which they deserve relief;

Medical cannabis is a term for derivatives of the Cannabis sativa plant that are used to ease symptoms caused by certain medical conditions. Cannabis sativa contains many active compounds. The best known are delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). Medical cannabis comes in a variety of forms, including pill, liquid, oil, powder, and dried leaves;

As of the date of this order, a total of 38 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands allow cannabis for medical use by qualified individuals;

The Governor signed Senate Bill 47 (“SB 47”) on March 31, 2023, which became effective in the Commonwealth of Kentucky on June 29, 2023. Pursuant to SB 47, on January 1, 2025, it will be lawful for Kentuckians to use medical cannabis if done in accordance with KRS Chapter 218B and any administrative regulations promulgated thereunder;

The language of KRS 218B.020(1) charges the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with implementation, operation, oversight, and regulation of the medical cannabis program established by SB 47;

As with prior executive orders regarding medical cannabis, I remain committed to providing relief to Kentuckians suffering from serious medical conditions as well as ensuring they have safe, affordable access to medical cannabis under the new program.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 12.029, do hereby Declare, Order and Direct the following:

- I. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup is hereby created and attached to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for administrative purposes. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup shall study evolving medical cannabis industry policy and the state of medical cannabis policy in the Commonwealth in order to make recommendations to the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program and other state agencies on emerging best practices as well as legislative, regulatory, and policy changes necessary to ensure Kentucky patient-cardholders and caregivers have safe access to affordable medical cannabis products.
- II. The twelve (12) members of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup shall be appointed by the Governor. The initial Workgroup shall be composed of the following members that have relevant experience in health care, education and workforce, law enforcement, agriculture and economic development, and local government:



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- a. Eric Friedlander, in his capacity as Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, or designee, who shall serve as Chair;
- b. Jamie Link, in his capacity as Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet, or designee;
- c. Jeff Noel, in his capacity as Secretary for the Cabinet for Economic Development, or designee;
- d. Colonel Phillip Burnett, Jr., in his capacity as Commissioner of the Department of the Kentucky State Police, or designee;
- e. Marni Gibson, in her capacity as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions, or designee;
- f. Thomas Miller, in his capacity as Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, or designee;
- g. Ashton McKenzie, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 21st Judicial Circuit of Kentucky, a Local Law Enforcement Representative;
- h. Michael Mueller, Franklin County Judge/Executive, a Local Government Representative;
- i. Ashley Smith, Agribusiness Representative;
- j. Dorsey Ridley, Agribusiness Representative;
- k. Jonathan Hatton, a Licensed Kentucky Physician Representative;
and
- l. Julie Cantwell, Healthcare Advocate Representative.

Please issue commissions to them.

- III. The members of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup shall serve for a term of two (2) years. In the event of a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term, the Governor shall appoint a member for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- IV. The members of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- V. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup will convene quarterly.
- VI. Subcommittees of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup are as follows: Workforce Development Subcommittee, Local



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Government Subcommittee, Agriculture and Economic Development Subcommittee, and Healthcare Subcommittee. The Chair of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup shall appoint the chair of each respective subcommittee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Beshear".

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State