

S.F. No. 1179 – Medical Cannabis

Author: Senator Mark W. Koran

Prepared by: Katie Cavanor, Senate Counsel (651/296-3801)

Date: February 26, 2021

S.F. 1179 makes modifications to the medical cannabis program by authorizing manufacturers to acquire hemp from hemp processors and permitting distribution to occur outside a distribution facility in a designated area if certain requirements are met.

Section 1 (152.22, subdivision 5c) adds a definition for a hemp producer as any person licensed under chapter 18K to convert raw hemp into a product.

Section 2 (152.29, subd. 1) authorizes a manufacturer to acquire hemp products produced by a hemp processor as well as from a hemp grower and requires the same testing, security, delivery, and transportation requirements to be met for hemp products acquired by a manufacturer as are required to be met with hemp products. This section also requires the manufacturer to verify that the hemp processor has a valid license under chapter 18K.

Section 3 (152.29, subd. 3) permits the required consultation with a licensed pharmacist to be conducted remotely by secure videoconference, telephone, or by other remote means. This section also specifies that a consultation with a pharmacist is not required when the manufacturer is distributing medical cannabis to a patient according to a patient-specific dosage plan that has been established by the manufacturer and the plan is not being modified in terms of dosage or product.

Section 4 (152.29, subd. 3b) authorizes a manufacturer to distribute medical cannabis to a patient, registered designated caregiver or the patient's parent, legal guardian, or spouse at a distribution facility while in a motor vehicle outside the facility provided that:

- (1) the distribution facility staff receives payment and distributes the cannabis in a designated zone that is as close as feasible to the front door of the facility;
- (2) the receipt of payment and distribution are visually recorded by a closed-circuit television surveillance camera and other necessary security safeguards are provided;
- (3) medical cannabis is not stored outside of the restricted area of the facility and the facility staff transports the cannabis from the restricted area at the facility to the designated zone for

distribution only after confirming that the patient, caregiver, parent, guardian or spouse has arrived at the designated zone;

- (4) the payment and distribution of the cannabis take place only after a pharmacist consultation has occurred, if required;
- (5) immediately following the distribution, facility staff enters the transaction into the medical cannabis registry information technology database; and
- (6) immediately following distribution, the facility staff takes the payment into the distribution facility.

Section 5 (152.29, subd. 3c) specifies that a manufacturer is not required to grind root balls of medical cannabis plants or incorporate them with a greater quantity of non-consumable solid waste before transporting the root balls to another location for disposal.

Section 6 (152.31) permits the commissioner to enter into data sharing arrangements with the commissioner of agriculture to verify licensing, inspection, and compliance information related to hemp processors similar to the arrangements related to hemp growers.