



**L-1
Health Care
Stabilization Fund
and Kansas Medical
Malpractice Law**

**L-2
The Health Care
Compact
(2014 HB 2553)**

**L-3
Massage Therapy**

**L-4
Medical Marijuana**

**L-5
Creation of Operator
Registration Act and
Changes in Adult
Care Home Licensure
Act**

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Health

L-4 Medical Marijuana

Although the possession and use of medical marijuana is not legal in Kansas, several bills have recently been introduced to change the law. This article summarizes the bills that have been introduced in Kansas, as well as laws from other states.

History of Bills Introduced in Kansas

Over the past ten years, six bills were introduced in the Kansas Legislature addressing the topic of medical marijuana. None of the bills were recommended for passage, nor did the bills advance past the original committee.

In 2008, SB 556 would have authorized physicians to issue written certifications to patients, to allow for the use of marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for certain debilitating medication conditions. The bill would have provided doctors with immunity from criminal and civil liability for issuing certificates, and it would have created a defense to patients for possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or drug paraphernalia to aid in the use of such substances.

In 2010, HB 2610 would have allowed for the creation of not-for-profit Compassionate Care Centers, and for these facilities to issue registration certificates, registry identification cards, and marijuana to patients. The bill would have allowed patients and caregivers to possess certain amounts of marijuana plants, usable marijuana, and seedlings of unusable marijuana. Also, the bill would have provided patients and caregivers with certain levels of immunity from arrest, prosecution, or other civil penalties. Finally, the bill would have prohibited discrimination against patients from schools, landlords, employers, and other entities.

Slight variations of 2010 HB 2610 were introduced in 2011 (HB 2330), 2012 (SB 354), and 2013 (HB 2198 and SB 9).

Other States

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have laws legalizing medical marijuana and cannabis programs. The laws in these states meet the following criteria: protection from criminal penalties for using marijuana for a medical purpose; access to marijuana through home

cultivation, dispensaries, or some other system that is likely to be implemented; allowance for a variety of strains; and allowance of either smoking or vaporization of marijuana products, plant material, or extract. After Colorado and Washington legalized marijuana in 2000 and 2011, respectively, the two states legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2012.

Another 11 states allow the use of low THC, high cannabidiol products for specific medical conditions or as a legal defense. Both Missouri and Iowa enacted laws in 2014 to allow cannabidiol oil to be prescribed to individuals who suffer from intractable epilepsy. Intractable epilepsy is a seizure disorder in which a patient's seizures fail to come under control with treatment.

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