

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1543
Version:	HASB
Request No.:	
Author:	Sen. Treat
Date:	05/05/2022

Bill Analysis

SB 1543 separates the Medical Marijuana Authority from the State Department of Health and deems it to be a separate and distinct agency. The measure also creates the Executive Director position at the Authority and provides for the Governor to appoint him or her. All regulatory powers relating to medical marijuana shall be transferred to the Authority. The measure provides that all licenses granted by the Department shall remain in effect. All contracts pertaining to medical marijuana shall be transferred to the Authority. The Authority is empowered to investigate possible criminal conduct relating to medical marijuana and arrest violators; provided, its investigators shall meet all training requirements and qualifications for peace officers.

The measure also provides that applications for a medical marijuana patient license may be signed by physicians in good standing with the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. The measure also updates statutory language relating to the regulation of medical marijuana to reflect the creation of the Medical Marijuana Authority and strikes outdated language. The CS provides clarifying language. The measure authorizes the Executive Director to conduct hearings, issue final agency orders, and to impose disciplinary action. The Executive Director may delegate to an administrative law judge the authority to conduct hearings, issue final agency orders, or impose disciplinary action.

House Amendments

HA's to the measure adds language providing for the Executive Director or a delegated administrative law judge to conduct hearings, issue final agency orders, or impose disciplinary action.

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