

1 AN ACT relating to the creation of the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research and
2 making an appropriation therefor.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) The Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research is hereby established at the*
7 *University of Kentucky to advance the study of the use of cannabis and cannabis*
8 *derivatives for the treatment of certain medical conditions and diseases as*
9 *indicated and recommended by the center's advisory board.*

10 *(2) The role and mission of the center shall be to:*

11 *(a) Conduct and fund research related to cannabis and cannabis derivatives,*
12 *including pharmaceutical development and the efficacies of cannabis and*
13 *cannabis derivatives for the treatment of certain medical conditions and*
14 *diseases;*

15 *(b) Conduct and fund research related to the health effects, including the*
16 *potential risks or side effects, of the use of cannabis and cannabis*
17 *derivatives;*

18 *(c) Conduct and fund research related to the efficacy and potential health*
19 *effects of various cannabis delivery methods, including but not limited to*
20 *vaporizing, ingestibles, topical applications, and combustion.*

21 *(d) Review current and future cannabis research literature, clinical studies,*
22 *and clinical trials;*

23 *(e) Monitor, to the extent that appropriate and sufficient data are available,*
24 *patient outcomes in states with medicinal cannabis programs; and*

25 *(f) Examine, to the extent that sufficient data are available, the health effects*
26 *of the use of combustible cannabis.*

27 *(3) The university shall:*

1 (a) Develop and maintain the center in accordance with its administrative and
2 governing regulations related to the formation of multidisciplinary research
3 centers and institutes;

4 (b) Establish an internal advisory board to oversee the activities, research
5 agenda, and finances of the center. Members of the advisory board shall be
6 appointed by the president of the University of Kentucky and may include:

7 1. The director of the University of Kentucky Center for Cannabis
8 Research;

9 2. The director of the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and
10 Alcohol Research;

11 3. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food
12 and Environment or his or her designee;

13 4. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy or his or
14 her designee;

15 5. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine or his or
16 her designee;

17 6. Physicians who are licensed by the Kentucky Board of Medical
18 Licensure and who are certified by the appropriate board in the
19 following specialties:

20 a. Oncology;

21 b. Pain and addiction medicine;

22 c. Neurology;

23 d. Psychiatry; and

24 e. Ophthalmology;

25 7. Researchers from a college or university that currently conducts
26 cannabis research or that receives funds from the center pursuant to
27 subsection (5) of this section, if any; and

1 8. Any other individual appointed at the discretion of the president of the
2 University of Kentucky;

3 (c) Report to the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and
4 the Legislative Research Commission by September 1 each year for the
5 preceding fiscal year, outlining the center's activities and expenditures; and

6 (d) Ensure that the center complies with subsection (4) of this section.

7 (4) The center shall:

8 (a) Employ a director and necessary staff;

9 (b) Seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public
10 sources to support the role and mission of the center;

11 (c) Conduct clinical research, clinical studies, and clinical trials as approved by
12 appropriate federal agencies;

13 (d) Publicly disseminate the research conducted or funded by the center;

14 (e) Host an annual cannabis research symposium; and

15 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and upon request
16 from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, enter into a
17 memorandum of understanding with the cabinet for data collected by the
18 center or any researcher associated with or funded by the center.

19 (5) (a) The center may award research funds to any nonprofit Kentucky-based
20 research entity or any Kentucky institution of higher education and any
21 research entity association with such an institution.

22 (b) If the center awards research funds to any other entity, the center shall use
23 an open, competitive grant application process using national best practices.

24 (c) Any entity or institution that receives research funds from the center shall
25 present the results of its research at the center's annual research
26 symposium in the year after the research is concluded and shall, upon
27 request from the center, present an update on any ongoing research at the

1 center's annual research symposium if the research has not concluded.

2 (6) The university, the center, and any researcher or staff employed by, associated
3 with, or funded by the center or the university shall immediately notify the
4 Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Legislative Research
5 Commission of any imminent or serious public health risk, or potentially
6 imminent or serious public health risk, associated with cannabis identified as
7 part of a research project associated with or approved by the center or the
8 university's internal review board.

9 (7) If at any time the Commonwealth establishes a medicinal cannabis program, the
10 application to receive a medicinal cannabis card shall include a question asking
11 whether the patient is interested in participating in clinical research conducted by
12 the center. If the patient indicates his or her interest in participating in the
13 center's research, the department or state agency responsible for approving
14 medicinal cannabis cards is authorized to share the patient's name, phone
15 number, and address with the center.

16 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the University of Kentucky General
17 Fund moneys in the amount of up to \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 for the creation
18 and operation of the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research, including expenses related
19 to conducting clinical research and participant recruitment, with the actual appropriation
20 equaling \$2,000,000 minus any gifts, donations, endowments, or other contributions, not
21 including grants or other funds designated for the purpose of conducting research,
22 received by the University of Kentucky for the purpose of creating or operating the center.

23 ➔Section 3. Appropriations authorized by this Act shall be paid from the general
24 fund surplus account (KRS 48.700) or the budget reserve trust fund account (KRS
25 48.705).