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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 102 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY RABB, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN, McNEILL,  
ROZZI, SANCHEZ, KINSEY AND BURGOS, MAY 5, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 5, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board to encourage and  
2 facilitate State System of Higher Education universities to  
3 secure United States Drug Enforcement Administration  
4 registrations to authorize the possession of cannabis for  
5 clinical registrants to engage in hands-on work regarding  
6 cultivating, testing, processing and researching cannabis  
7 plants.

8 WHEREAS, The act of April 17, 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), known as  
9 the Medical Marijuana Act, was passed in a bipartisan fashion;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Act established the Medical  
12 Marijuana Advisory Board within the Department of Health of the  
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Advisory Board was given the  
15 following duties under the Medical Marijuana Act:

16 (1) To examine and analyze the statutory and regulatory  
17 law relating to medical marijuana within this Commonwealth.

18 (2) To examine and analyze the law and events in other  
19 states and the nation with respect to medical marijuana.

20 (3) To accept and review written comments from

1 individuals and organizations about medical marijuana.

2 (4) To issue a written report to the Governor, the  
3 Senate and the House of Representatives two years after the  
4 effective date of the Medical Marijuana Act;

5 and

6 WHEREAS, After the receipt of the report of the Medical  
7 Marijuana Advisory Board, the Department of Health was given the  
8 authority to promulgate regulations to effectuate  
9 recommendations made by the advisory board; and

10 WHEREAS, The Medical Marijuana Act established a clinical  
11 research program to allow for eight clinical registrants; and

12 WHEREAS, A clinical registrant holds both a medical marijuana  
13 grower/processor permit and a dispensary permit; and

14 WHEREAS, Clinical registrants are affiliated with an approved  
15 academic clinical research center; and

16 WHEREAS, Clinical registrants act as both the  
17 grower/processor and the dispensary to assist academic clinical  
18 research centers with providing and dispensing medical marijuana  
19 for research; and

20 WHEREAS, The work conducted through these partnerships  
21 provides physicians with evidence-based research to make  
22 clinical decisions for their patients; and

23 WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91-513, 84  
24 Stat. 1236) requires each person seeking to manufacture a  
25 controlled substance to obtain a United States Drug Enforcement  
26 Administration registration; and

27 WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act defines "manufacture"  
28 to include the "production" of a controlled substance, including  
29 the planting, cultivation, growing or harvesting of a controlled  
30 substance; and

1       WHEREAS, A person seeking to plant, cultivate, grow or  
2 harvest marijuana to supply researchers must obtain a United  
3 States Drug Enforcement Administration registration; and

4       WHEREAS, The United States Drug Enforcement Administration  
5 issued a final rule, effective January 19, 2021, to amend its  
6 regulations to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana for  
7 research purposes; and

8       WHEREAS, As of February 2022, the cannabis industry supports  
9 more than 428,000 full-time jobs in the United States; and

10       WHEREAS, This equates to an annual job growth rate of 33%;  
11 and

12       WHEREAS, The cannabis industry needs a labor force, and  
13 workers must have the expertise and skills to work in an ever-  
14 changing field; and

15       WHEREAS, An increasing number of universities are designing  
16 cannabis-related programs to prepare students for this  
17 fledgling, but growing, industry; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Medical  
19 Marijuana Advisory Board to encourage and facilitate State  
20 System of Higher Education universities to secure United States  
21 Drug Enforcement Administration registrations to authorize the  
22 possession of cannabis for clinical registrants to engage in  
23 hands-on work regarding cultivating, testing, processing and  
24 researching cannabis plants; and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Medical  
26 Marijuana Advisory Board to put forth additional recommendations  
27 in partnership with other entities, including universities; and  
28 be it further

29       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Medical  
30 Marijuana Advisory Board to partner with the State System of

1 Higher Education and other entities to address the following  
2 concerns regarding any accredited postsecondary institutions  
3 that currently offer or are considering cannabis-related degree  
4 programs:

5 (1) Policy should ensure that all public educational  
6 institutions allow students to use Federal student aid to  
7 enroll in and take cannabis-related courses of study.

8 (2) Federal policy should eliminate any restrictions  
9 that prohibit universities from receiving Federal funding or  
10 grants due to cannabis-related courses of study.

11 (3) Federal policy should permit students who are at  
12 least 18 years of age to enroll and participate in courses  
13 that involve the touching or handling of cannabis plants.

14 (4) Policy should address the potential for conflict  
15 between Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

16 (5) Policy should put in place protections and defenses  
17 for universities working with cannabis. The protections may  
18 indicate that universities are not subject to disciplinary  
19 action or law enforcement interference, so long as they  
20 comply with regulations. Furthermore, additional protections  
21 should be implemented to ensure that Federal funding is not  
22 jeopardized and that university employees and contractors do  
23 not face discrimination for legal medical cannabis use.

24 (6) Federal policy should allow for research  
25 collaborations between different universities and between  
26 universities and corporations. University-corporate  
27 partnerships should include:

28 (i) The facilitation of work-based experiential  
29 learning opportunities for students, including  
30 internships, job-shadowing and part-time employment.

1           (ii) Career connections, including the advertisement  
2 of internships and career opportunities on university-  
3 owned platforms.

4           (iii) Research collaborations, including sponsored  
5 research.

6           (iv) Technology transfer partnerships designed to  
7 commercialize agricultural technology findings,  
8 extraction methods, genetic sequencing and other  
9 intellectual property developed by students and faculty;  
10 and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That, upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief  
12 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of  
13 this resolution to each member of the Medical Marijuana Advisory  
14 Board.