

HB 1391 Medical Marijuana Inclusion of Edibles Testimony

Representative Gretchen Dobervich

March 15, 2021 9:00am

Good Morning Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. For the record, my name is Representative Gretchen Dobervich. I represent District 11 in Fargo.

HB 1391 would make edible products available for patients enrolled in the North Dakota Medical Marijuana program. Changes to current statute for edible medical cannabis products would include:

- At any given time, a registered qualifying patient, or a registered designated caregiver on behalf of a registered qualifying patient, could possess no more than five hundred milligrams of a cannabinoid edible product.
- Edible products would be limited to soft or hard lozenges in a geometric square shape
- The maximum concentration or amount of tetrahydrocannabinol permitted in a serving of a cannabinoid edible product would be ten milligrams.
- A manufacturing facility may not manufacture a cannabinoid edible product unless the manufacturing facility has received the prior approval of the department.
- A dispensary may not possess, market, or sell a cannabinoid edible product unless the dispensary has received the prior approval of the department.
- The department may not approve the manufacturing, possession, marketing, or sale of a cannabinoid edible product unless the department has reviewed and approved the form, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, and marketing of the cannabinoid edible product
- Manufacturing of a cannabinoid edible product must take place in a department licensed commercial kitchen that is inspected annually by the department.
- Packaging of a cannabinoid edible product must be resealable, must be child resistant, and may not be transparent.
- The maximum concentration or amount of tetrahydrocannabinol permitted in a package would be one hundred milligrams.
- Labeling of a cannabinoid edible product would be required to be in black arial font which provides the name of the product, manufacturer's information, ingredient list, milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol per serving, and number of servings per package. The labeling may not include an image other than text would not be allowed.
- Target Marketing of edible cannabis products to minors would not be allowed
- The health council would be directed to adopt rules to regulate the form, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, and marketing of a cannabinoid edible product.

Edible cannabis products were included in the original medical cannabis bill and removed. Since the program started they have been a product patients have asked for. Edible medical cannabis products are easier to use for some patients, reduce the need for patients to make their own edibles and provide another alternative to smoking medical cannabis.

HB 1391 specifically outlines the way in which medical cannabis edibles can be produced, marketed, and sold. These changes are based on best practices the North Dakota Department of Health Medical Marijuana Division suggested based on experiences from other states with medical cannabis programs.

Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony. I stand for questions.