

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1321

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1321
1/20/2025

Relating to medical marijuana limitations.
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2:40 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby called the hearing to order.

Members present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Fees for dispensaries
- Card renewals
- Purchase limits

2:41 p.m. Representative Vetter, District 18, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #30269.

2:47 p.m. Steve Bakken, Burleigh County Commissioner, testified in favor.

2:51 p.m. Calvin Benson, North Dakota Peace Officers Association, testified in opposition.

Additional written testimony:

Stephanie Engbreston, Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota, submitted testimony in opposition, #30169.

2:53 p.m. Chairman Ruby closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Steve Vetter

District 18
804 South 17th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241
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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary (Vice Chair)
Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman Ruby and members of the committee,

My name is Steve Vetter, I represent district 18, eastern part of Grand Forks along the Red River. It has a little rural area going as far north as Manvel, ND.

The objective of HB 1321 is to lower costs for patients and the dispensaries. It does this by doing 3 things:

Lowers the fees for the Dispensaries by 10%.

Requires medical card holders to renew their cards every 2 years instead of every 1 year.

Makes a small increase in the amount a patient can purchase to take advantage of lower prices.

*** Lowers the fees for the Dispensaries by 10%.

The Medical Cannabis users represent the responsible North Dakotans who agree to regulation. We need to preserve our medical cannabis program that was approved by every county except one in ND. Remember, we are talking about medical cannabis not recreational. With neighboring states becoming legal recreational states. Many North Dakotans will risk punishment to drive across state lines and self medicate themselves instead because of cost and convenience. This is evidenced by the huge drop in sales in the dispensaries in the western side of the state since in Montana it has become legal. The implementation in Minnesota will affect Grand Forks and Fargo. We need to support our medical cannabis program so we can regulate and maintain a safe environment for our citizens.

A 10% decrease in fees is a small but reasonable move to help the medical cannabis dispensaries stay in business.

***Changes Renewal from 1 to 2 years.

The cost to renew a patient medical card is expensive and only available in the larger population areas of North Dakota. About \$200 for the nurse/doctor appointment and a medical card. Requiring the card every two years cuts this expense by half.

*** Makes a small increase in the amount a patient can purchase.

The cost of the product is priced significantly lower when purchased in the larger amounts.

1 gram \$17

3.5 grams \$52 \$14.86/gram

7 grams \$90 \$12.86/gram

14 grams \$160 \$11.43/gram

28 grams \$300. \$10.71/gram

The goal of this provision is to lower cost for the consumer and increase sales for the dispensaries.

Medical Cannabis has been a game changer for thousands of North Dakotans when helping them with many debilitating conditions. Ask someone who it has helped. It has saved lives. Please do not believe the ridiculous claims that have been made. Myself when considering how I should vote drug related topics, my first consideration is safety. The claims are opposite to what they say. No one has ever overdosed on cannabis. It is a safe drug and regulated by our state. It doesn't cause suicide, it treats depression taken in the correct dosages. Some claim it is a gateway drug. But actually it is a gateway drug in the opposite direction. Former alcoholics and addicts have used cannabis to calm their nerves, veterans to treat PTSD, treating Parkinson's and seizure disorders and treating pain issues instead of using alcohol, pain killers, heroin, cocaine or other hard drugs that will kill you.

Remember, this bill is for medical cannabis of which is regulated by our state not recreational. Please help lower the cost of medical cannabis in our state and vote for Do Pass recommendation for HB 1321.

January 20, 2024
House Human Services Committee
HB 1321
Rep. Matthew Ruby, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson. I am appearing on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities. The Chiefs of Police appear in opposition to Section 1 of HB 1321.

Section 1 of HB 1321 substantially increases the amount of medical marijuana in the form of dried leaves and flowers that a qualifying patient, or their designated caregiver, can purchase on one day, can possess at one time, and can purchase in one month. Increasing the amount of dried leaves and flowers that a qualifying patient can possess increases the risk the product will be diverted and sold illegally.

Due to the increased risk of diversion of medical marijuana under HB 1321, the Chiefs of Police Association respectfully requests a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1321.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1321
2/03/25

Relating to medical marijuana limitations.
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4:37 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members absent: Hendrix, Holle

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

4:42 p.m. Representative K. Anderson moved to amend the bill. LC#25.0676.02001.

4:42 p.m. Representative Bolinske seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Dawson Holle	AB
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

4:44 p.m. Motion passed 11-0-2.

4:46 p.m. Representative K. Anderson moved a Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.

4:46 p.m. Representative Bolinske seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	N
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	N
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	N
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Dawson Holle	AB
Representative Dwight Kiefert	N
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	N

4:46 p.m. Motion passed 6-5-2.

Representative Dobervich will carry the bill.

4:48 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

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1 of 3

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

Introduced by

Representatives Vetter, M. Ruby, Bahl, Conmy, Dobervich, Holle, Hager

Senators Meyer, Cory

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 19-24.1-01, section 19-24.1-11,
2 and subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 19-24.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code,
3 relating to medical marijuana limitations.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 19-24.1-01 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 7 3. "Allowable amount of usable marijuana" means the amount of usable marijuana a
8 registered qualifying patient or registered designated caregiver may purchase in a
9 thirty-day period under this chapter.
- 10 a. Except as provided under subdivision b:
- 11 (1) During a thirty-day period, a registered qualifying patient may not purchase
12 or have purchased by a registered designated caregiver more than ~~two and~~
13 ~~one-half ounces [70.87 grams]~~ three ounces [85.05 grams] of dried leaves or
14 flowers of the plant of the genus cannabis in a combustible delivery form.
- 15 (2) At any time a registered qualifying patient, or a registered designated
16 caregiver on behalf of a registered qualifying patient, may not possess more
17 than ~~three ounces [85.05 grams]~~ four and one-half ounces [127.57 grams] of
18 dried leaves or flowers of the plant of the genus cannabis in a combustible
19 delivery form.

- 1 b. Notwithstanding subdivision a, if a registered qualifying patient has a registry
2 identification card authorizing an enhanced allowable amount:
- 3 (1) During a thirty-day period a registered qualifying patient may not purchase
4 or have purchased by a registered designated caregiver more than ~~six~~
5 ~~ounces [170.01 grams]~~nine ounces [255.15 grams] of dried leaves or
6 flowers of the plant of genus cannabis in a combustible delivery form.
- 7 (2) At any time a registered qualifying patient, or a registered designated
8 caregiver on behalf of a registered qualifying patient, may not possess more
9 than ~~seven and one-half ounces [212.62 grams]~~eleven and one-fourth
10 ounces [318.93 grams] of dried leaves or flowers of the plant of the genus
11 cannabis in a combustible delivery form.
- 12 c. A registered qualifying patient may not purchase or have purchased by a
13 registered designated caregiver more than the maximum concentration or
14 amount of tetrahydrocannabinol permitted in a thirty-day period. The maximum
15 concentration or amount of tetrahydrocannabinol permitted in a thirty-day period
16 for a cannabinoid concentrate or medical cannabinoid product, or the cumulative
17 total of both, is ~~six thousand~~nine thousand milligrams.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 19-24.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **19-24.1-11. Registry identification cards.**

- 21 1. The contents of a registry identification card must include:
- 22 a. The name of the cardholder;
- 23 b. A designation as to whether the cardholder is a qualifying patient, designated
24 caregiver, or compassion center agent;
- 25 c. A designation as to whether a qualifying patient is a minor;
- 26 d. A designation as to whether a qualifying patient or a designated caregiver's
27 qualifying patient is authorized to use an enhanced amount of dried leaves or
28 flowers of the plant of the genus cannabis to treat or alleviate the patient's
29 debilitating medical condition of cancer;
- 30 e. The date of issuance and expiration date;

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- 1 f. A random ten-digit alphanumeric identification number containing at least four
- 2 numbers and at least four letters which is unique to the cardholder;
- 3 g. If the cardholder is a designated caregiver, the random identification number of
- 4 the qualifying patient the designated caregiver is authorized to assist;
- 5 h. A photograph of the cardholder; and
- 6 i. The phone number or website address at which the card can be verified.
- 7 2. Except as otherwise provided in this section or rule adopted under this chapter, a
- 8 registry identification card expiration date must be ~~one year~~two years after the date of
- 9 issuance.
- 10 3. If a health care provider limits the written certification until a specified date, less than
- 11 ~~one year~~two years, the registry identification card expires on that date.

12 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 19-24.1-16 of the
13 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 14 a. The compassion center submits a renewal fee, in an amount not to exceed ~~ninety~~
- 15 ~~thousand~~eighty-one thousand dollars for a dispensary and ~~one hundred ten~~
- 16 ~~thousand~~one hundred thousand dollars for a manufacturing facility, which the
- 17 department shall refund if the department rejects the renewal application;

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1321**

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0676.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1321 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.