

Georgia medical cannabis update

August 29,2018

HB 1 Haleigh's Hope Act

- Signed into law by Governor Nathan Deal on April 16, 2015



HB 1 Final Passage



What did HB 1 do?

- Provides immunity from prosecution for possession of medical cannabis oil for 8 qualifying conditions
- Cannot possess more than 20 ounces
- Patient must register with the state for registration card in order to have immunity
- Oil cannot exceed more than 5% THC

HB 1

- Qualifying conditions for immunity are:
 - Seizures
 - Cancer
 - ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease
 - MS
 - Crohn's Disease
 - Parkinson's Disease
 - Mitochondrial Disease
 - Sickle Cell Disease

SB 16 signed into law May 19,2017

- Adds 6 conditions to existing law
 - Alzheimer's
 - AIDS
 - Autism
 - Tourette's Syndrome
 - Peripheral Neuropathy
 - EB (rare skin disease)
 - Also adds eligibility if in hospice care

SB 16 signed into law May 19,2017

- Provides reciprocity with other states
- Reduced reporting requirements for physicians

Legislative Addition 2018

HB 65

- **Adds PTSD & Intractable Pain to Low THC oil registry**
- **Creates Commission to study and recommend a solution for the access issue in Georgia**
- **Signed by Governor Deal May, 2018**

Current Low THC Oil Registry status
as of July 31, 2018

- **Physicians Registered – 646**
- **Patients Registered – 5,425**

Current Low THC Oil Registry conditions as of July 31, 2018

• Seizures	1,356	24%
• Cancer	1,225	21%
• Peripheral Neuropathy	1,169	20%
• MS	638	11%
• Autism	323	5%
• Crohn's	289	5%
• Parkinson's	242	4%
• Intractable Pain	177	3%
• Mitochondrial	100	2%
• Sickle Cell	91	2%
• PTSD	67	1%
• Tourette's	26	
• Other	91	

Monthly additions to Low THC oil registry

For 2018

- March 284
- April 280
- May 334
- June 332
- July* 472

*PTSD and Intractable Pain added July 1

Challenges remaining for patients

Typical daily message:

“I’ve signed up for the registry,
what do I do now????”

or

“How do I now get the oil???”

Challenges remaining for patients

- Still can't access medicine in Georgia, with limited exceptions – very low THC oil (less than .3%), considered hemp, can be purchased online (don't know content)
- Must travel to another state to obtain it, and risk violating federal law by bringing it back to Georgia (impractical for most)
- Many are buying plant off the street, and making the oil themselves (illegal, don't know content)
- Underground network.....(not sustainable)

NATIONAL UPDATE

- **46 states** now have some form of medical cannabis law on the books
- **31** allow some form of cultivation inside their state, including Florida and Arkansas
- **15** have possession only laws similar to Georgia, including Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina

Federal Solution?

- CARERS Act:
 - Protect state medical programs
 - Remove CBD from controlled substance act
 - Eliminate federal research barriers
 - Ensure equality for military veterans

Public Opinion?

AJC poll

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Poll: Georgians want med pot law expanded

More than 300 families have qualified for Ga.'s medical pot registry.

By Kristina Torres
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Georgians overwhelmingly back expanding the state's new medical marijuana law, according to a new poll from a group advocating the idea.

The poll also showed a nearly even split among Georgians on the idea of fully legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

The results come after Gov. Nathan Deal said that he's not convinced the state needs to expand its new program, which for the first time this year allows use of a limited form of cannabis oil to treat severe forms of eight illnesses including cancer, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

More than 300 families have since qualified for the state's new medical marijuana registry, allowing them to use the oil in treatment.

Parents and advocates, however, want lawmakers to go one step further: allow growers to harvest and distrib-

ute cannabis oil in-state.

The poll conducted on behalf of the newly formed Georgians for Freedom in Healthcare is part of that effort to show that Georgians are comfortable with expanding the program – even if the governor isn't.

The poll, conducted Nov. 29-30 by Atlanta-based Opinion Savvy, found 84.5 percent of likely 2016 Georgia primary voters somewhat to strongly supported allowing production and distribution of cannabis oil in Georgia.

Another 72.7 percent of respondents said they are somewhat to very confident law enforcement agencies could effectively police the law's expansion – something law enforcement officials in Georgia have said they are still skeptical about.

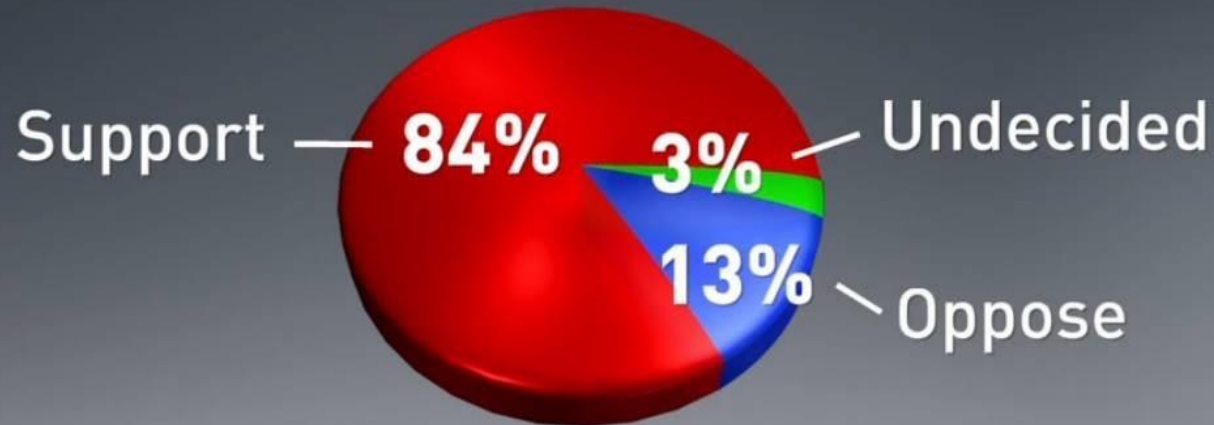
Among other findings, 81.8 percent of respondents said they support expanding the list of illnesses now included in the program for the oil's use. Another 61.5 percent said they somewhat to strongly support allowing the smoking of medical marijuana as a form of treatment. And 49.4

POT continued on B8

Survey says.....(11Alive poll)

SOURCE: OPINION SAVVY STATEWIDE POLL

Do you support expanding Georgia's law to permit the production & distribution of cannabis oil for medical purposes?



Potential Recommendation

- Limited licensees (5-10)
- No smoking
- Strictly regulated by DPH with proper restrictions



