



HB 1535

Intergovernmental Relations Office – Brie L. Franco, Officer



TEXAS COMPASSIONATE USE PROGRAM: **BACKGROUND**



- The Texas Compassionate Use Act enacted by the Texas Legislature in 2015.
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) administers the Compassionate Use Program (CUP) in Texas. DPS operates a secure online registry of physicians who can prescribe low-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to patients and manages the licensing of organizations that dispense low-THC cannabis
- As of August 2021:
 - 408 physicians approved by DPS to prescribe low-THC cannabis
 - 8,212 patients listed by their physicians in Compassionate Use Registry*

**Source: Texas DPS Report*

HOUSE BILL 1535: LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION



- Authored by Representative Stephanie Klick, Effective September 1, 2021
- Expands medical conditions for which low-THC can be prescribed to include:
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - All forms of cancer (previously only terminal cancer)
 - Medical conditions approved as part of a research program
- Increases maximum THC level of low-THC cannabis from 0.5 % to 1% by weight
- Establishes compassionate-use institutional review boards to evaluate and approve proposed research programs to study the medical use of low THC cannabis. Bill also sets out qualifications for a physician to prescribe low-THC cannabis as part of an approved research program.

HB 1535: REGULATORY INFORMATION



Dept. of State Health Services

- Proposed Rule 25 TAC §1.65 establishing compassionate-use institutional review board (CIRB)
- *Comments due September 20*

Dept. of Public Safety

- DPS required to adopt or amend rules regarding cultivation, processing, & dispensing of low-THC cannabis by licensed dispensing organizations no later than December 1, 2021
- *Proposed Rules have not yet been posted*

QUESTIONS?



Brie L. Franco
Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Brie.Franco@austintexas.gov

Agenda:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=347683>

Thank you

