

MEDICAL MARIHUANA FACILITIES LICENSING ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 281 of 2016

PART 3. MEDICAL MARIHUANA LICENSING BOARD

333.27301 Medical marihuana licensing board; creation; membership; appointment; terms; vacancy; reimbursement for expenses; other public office; eligibility; removal of member; appointment and employment limitations; financial disclosure statement; direct or indirect interest.

Sec. 301. (1) The medical marihuana licensing board is created within the department of licensing and regulatory affairs.

(2) The board consists of 5 members who are residents of this state, not more than 3 of whom are members of the same political party. The governor shall appoint the members. One of the members shall be appointed from 3 nominees submitted by the senate majority leader and 1 from 3 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house. The governor shall designate 1 of the members as chairperson.

(3) The members shall be appointed for terms of 4 years, except, of those who are first appointed, 1 member shall be appointed for a term of 2 years and 2 members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. A member's term expires on December 31 of the last year of the member's term. If a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment.

(4) Each member of the board shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses and disbursements incurred in carrying out official duties.

(5) A board member shall not hold any other public office for which he or she receives compensation other than necessary travel or other incidental expenses.

(6) A person who is not of good moral character or who has been indicted for, charged with, or convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or forfeited bail concerning any felony or a misdemeanor involving a controlled substance violation, theft, dishonesty, or fraud under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States or a local ordinance in any state involving a controlled substance violation, dishonesty, theft, or fraud that substantially corresponds to a misdemeanor in that state is not eligible to serve on the board.

(7) The governor may remove any member of the board for neglect of duty, misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, or any other just cause.

(8) The board shall not appoint or employ an individual if any of the following circumstances exist:

(a) During the 3 years immediately preceding appointment or employment, the individual held any direct or indirect interest in, or was employed by, a person who is licensed to operate under this act or under a corresponding license in another jurisdiction or a person with an application for an operating license pending before the board or in any other jurisdiction. The board shall not employ an individual who has a direct or indirect interest in a licensee or a marihuana facility.

(b) The individual or his or her spouse, parent, child, child's spouse, sibling, or spouse of a sibling has an application for a license pending before the board or is a member of the board of directors of, or an individual financially interested in, any licensee or marihuana facility.

(9) Each member of the board and each key employee as determined by the department shall file with the governor a financial disclosure statement listing all assets and liabilities, property and business interests, and sources of income of the member and key employee and his or her spouse, if any, affirming that the member and key employee are in compliance with subsection (8)(a) and (b). The financial disclosure statement shall be made under oath and filed at the time of employment and annually thereafter.

(10) Each employee of the board shall file with the board a financial disclosure statement listing all assets and liabilities, property and business interests, and sources of income of the employee and his or her spouse. This subsection does not apply to a key employee.

(11) A member of the board or key employee shall not hold any direct or indirect interest in, be employed by, or enter into a contract for services with an applicant, a board licensee, or a marihuana facility for a period of 4 years after the date his or her employment or membership on the board terminates. The department in consultation with the board shall define the term "direct or indirect interest" by rule.

(12) For 2 years after the date his or her employment with the board is terminated, an employee of the board shall not acquire any direct or indirect interest in, be employed by, or enter into a contract for services with any applicant, licensee, or marihuana facility.

(13) For 2 years after the termination of his or her office or employment with the board, a board member or an individual employed by the board shall not represent any person or party other than this state before or against the board.

(14) A business entity in which a former board member or employee or agent has an interest, or any

partner, officer, or employee of the business entity, shall not make any appearance or represent a party that the former member, employee, or agent is prohibited from appearing for or representing. As used in this subsection, "business entity" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited liability partnership, association, trust, or other form of legal entity.

History: 2016, Act 281, Eff. Dec. 20, 2016;—Am. 2018, Act 582, Eff. Jan. 1, 2019.

Compiler's note: Enacting section 2 of Act 281 of 2016 provides:

"Enacting section 2. The legislature finds that the necessity for access to safe sources of marihuana for medical use and the immediate need for growers, processors, secure transporters, provisioning centers, and safety compliance facilities to operate under clear requirements establish the need to promulgate emergency rules to preserve the public health, safety, or welfare."

For transfer of powers and duties of the medical marihuana licensing board, marihuana advisory panel, and department of licensing and regulatory affairs, including its bureau of marijuana regulation, to the marijuana regulatory agency, and abolishment of the medical marihuana licensing board, marihuana advisory panel, and bureau of marijuana regulation, see ERO No. 2019-2, compiled at MCL 333.27001.

For the renaming of the marijuana regulatory agency to the cannabis regulatory agency, see E.R.O. No. 2022-1, compiled at MCL 333.27002.

333.27302 Board; duties.

Sec. 302. The board has general responsibility for implementing this act. The board has the powers and duties specified in this act and all other powers necessary and proper to fully and effectively implement and administer this act for the purpose of licensing, regulating, and enforcing the licensing and regulation system established under this act for marihuana growth, processing, testing, and transporting. The board is subject to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. The board's duties include all of the following:

- (a) Granting or denying each application for a state operating license within a reasonable time.
- (b) Deciding all license applications in reasonable order.
- (c) Conducting its public meetings in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.
- (d) Consulting with the department in promulgating rules and emergency rules as necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this act. The board shall not promulgate a rule establishing a limit on the number or type of marihuana facility licenses that may be granted.
- (e) Implementing and collecting the application fee described in section 401 and, in conjunction with the department of treasury, the tax described in section 601 and regulatory assessment described in section 603.
- (f) Providing for the levy and collection of fines for a violation of this act or rules.
- (g) Providing oversight of a marihuana facility through the board's inspectors, agents, and auditors and through the state police or attorney general for the purpose of certifying the revenue, receiving complaints from the public, or conducting investigations into the operation of the marihuana facility as the board considers necessary and proper to ensure compliance with this act and rules and to protect and promote the overall safety, security, and integrity of the operation of a marihuana facility.
- (h) Providing oversight of marihuana facilities to ensure that marihuana-infused products meet health and safety standards that protect the public to a degree comparable to state and federal standards applicable to similar food and drugs.
- (i) Reviewing and ruling on any complaint by a licensee regarding any investigative procedures of this state that are believed to be unnecessarily disruptive of marihuana facility operations. The need to inspect and investigate is presumed at all times. The board may delegate authority to hear, review, or rule on licensee complaints to a subcommittee of the board. To prevail on the complaint, a licensee must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the procedures unreasonably disrupted its marihuana facility operations.
- (j) Holding at least 2 public meetings each year. Upon 72 hours' written notice to each member, the chairperson or any 2 board members may call a special meeting. Three members of the board constitute a quorum, including when making determinations on an application for a license. Three votes are required in support of final determinations of the board on applications for licenses and all other licensing determinations, except that 4 votes are required in support of a determination to suspend or revoke a license. The board shall keep a complete and accurate record of all of its meetings and hearings. Upon order of the board, 1 of the board members or a hearing officer designated by the board may conduct any hearing provided for under this act or by rules and may recommend findings and decisions to the board. The board member or hearing officer conducting the hearing has all powers and rights regarding the conduct of hearings granted to the board under this act. The record made at the time of the hearing shall be reviewed by the board or a majority of the board, and the findings and decision of the majority of the board are the order of the board in the case.
- (k) Maintaining records that are separate and distinct from the records of any other state board. The records shall be made available for public inspection subject to the limitations of this act and shall accurately reflect

all board proceedings.

(l) Reviewing the patterns of marihuana transfers by the licensees under this act as recorded in a statewide database established for use in administering and enforcing this act and making recommendations to the governor and the legislature in a written annual report to the governor and the legislature and additional reports that the governor requests. The annual report shall be submitted by April 15 of each year and shall include the report required under section 702, a statement of receipts and disbursements by the board, the actions taken by the board, and any additional information and recommendations that the board considers appropriate or that the governor requests.

(m) Except as otherwise provided in this act, all information, records, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, or other data supplied to or used by the board are subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, except for the following:

(i) Unless presented during a public hearing or requested by the licensee or applicant who is the sole subject of the data, all of the information, records, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, or other data supplied to, created by, or used by the board related to background investigation of applicants or licensees and to trade secrets, internal controls, and security measures of the licensees or applicants.

(ii) All information, records, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, or other data supplied to or used by the board that have been received from another jurisdiction or local, state, or federal agency under a promise of confidentiality or if the release of the information is otherwise barred by the statutes, rules, or regulations of that jurisdiction or agency or by an intergovernmental agreement.

(iii) All information in the statewide monitoring system.

History: 2016, Act 281, Eff. Dec. 20, 2016.

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333.27303 Marijuana regulatory agency; powers.

Sec. 303. (1) The marijuana regulatory agency has jurisdiction over the operation of all marihuana facilities. The marijuana regulatory agency has all powers necessary and proper to fully and effectively oversee the operation of marihuana facilities, including the authority to do all of the following:

(a) Investigate applicants for state operating licenses, determine the eligibility for licenses, and grant licenses to applicants in accordance with this act and the rules.

(b) Investigate all individuals employed by marihuana facilities.

(c) At any time, through its investigators, agents, auditors, or the state police, without a warrant and without notice to the licensee, enter the premises, offices, facilities, or other places of business of a licensee, if evidence of compliance or noncompliance with this act or rules is likely to be found and consistent with constitutional limitations, for the following purposes:

(i) To inspect and examine all premises of marihuana facilities.

(ii) To inspect, examine, and audit relevant records of the licensee and, if the licensee fails to cooperate with an investigation, impound, seize, assume physical control of, or summarily remove from the premises all books, ledgers, documents, writings, photocopies, correspondence, records, and videotapes, including electronically stored records, money receptacles, or equipment in which the records are stored.

(iii) To inspect the person, and inspect or examine personal effects present in a marihuana facility, of any holder of a state operating license while that person is present in a marihuana facility.

(iv) To investigate alleged violations of this act or rules.

(d) Investigate alleged violations of this act or rules and take appropriate disciplinary action against a licensee.

(e) Consult with the department in adopting rules to establish appropriate standards for marihuana facilities and associated equipment.

(f) Require all relevant records of licensees, including financial or other statements, to be kept on the premises authorized for operation of the marihuana facility of the licensee or in the manner prescribed by the marijuana regulatory agency.

(g) Require that each licensee of a marihuana facility submit to the marijuana regulatory agency a list of

the stockholders or other persons having a 2.5% or greater beneficial interest in the facility in addition to any other information the marijuana regulatory agency considers necessary to effectively administer this act and rules, orders, and final decisions made under this act.

(h) Eject, or exclude or authorize the ejection or exclusion of, an individual from a marijuana facility if the individual violates this act, rules, or final orders of the marijuana regulatory agency. However, the propriety of the ejection or exclusion is subject to a subsequent hearing by the marijuana regulatory agency.

(i) Conduct periodic audits of marijuana facilities licensed under this act.

(j) Consult with the department as to appropriate minimum levels of insurance for licensees in addition to the minimum established under section 408 for liability insurance.

(k) Delegate the execution of any of its powers that are not specifically and exclusively reserved to the marijuana regulatory agency under this act for the purpose of administering and enforcing this act and rules.

(l) Take disciplinary action as the marijuana regulatory agency considers appropriate to prevent practices that violate this act and rules.

(m) Review a licensee if that licensee is under review or the subject of discipline by a regulatory body in any other jurisdiction for a violation of a controlled substance or marijuana law or regulation in that jurisdiction.

(n) Take any other reasonable or appropriate action to enforce this act and rules.

(2) The marijuana regulatory agency may seek and shall receive the cooperation and assistance of the department of state police in conducting background investigations of applicants and in fulfilling its responsibilities under this act. The department of state police may recover its costs of cooperation under this subsection.

History: 2016, Act 281, Imd. Dec. 20, 2016;—Am. 2020, Act 207, Imd. Dec. 15, 2020.

Compiler's note: Enacting section 2 of Act 281 of 2016 provides:

"Enacting section 2. The legislature finds that the necessity for access to safe sources of marijuana for medical use and the immediate need for growers, processors, secure transporters, provisioning centers, and safety compliance facilities to operate under clear requirements establish the need to promulgate emergency rules to preserve the public health, safety, or welfare."

For transfer of powers and duties of the medical marijuana licensing board, marijuana advisory panel, and department of licensing and regulatory affairs, including its bureau of marijuana regulation, to the marijuana regulatory agency, and abolishment of the medical marijuana licensing board, marijuana advisory panel, and bureau of marijuana regulation, see ERO No. 2019-2, compiled at MCL 333.27001.

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333.27305 Board; disclosure form; providing certain notices to chairperson; ex parte communication; outside employment; personal transaction involving marijuana with licensee or applicant; violation.

Sec. 305. (1) By January 31 of each year, each member of the board shall prepare and file with the governor's office and the board a disclosure form in which the member does all of the following:

(a) Affirms that the member or the member's spouse, parent, child, or child's spouse is not a member of the board of directors of, financially interested in, or employed by a licensee or applicant.

(b) Affirms that the member continues to meet any other criteria for board membership under this act or the rules promulgated by the board.

(c) Discloses any legal or beneficial interests in any real property that is or that may be directly or indirectly involved with operations authorized by this act.

(d) Discloses any other information as may be required to ensure that the integrity of the board and its work is maintained.

(2) By January 31 of each year, each employee of the board shall prepare and file with the board an employee disclosure form in which the employee does all of the following:

(a) Affirms the absence of financial interests prohibited by this act.

(b) Discloses any legal or beneficial interests in any real property that is or that may be directly or indirectly involved with operations authorized by this act.

(c) Discloses whether the employee or the employee's spouse, parent, child, or child's spouse is financially interested in or employed by a licensee or an applicant for a license under this act.

(d) Discloses such other matters as may be required to ensure that the integrity of the board and its work is maintained.

(3) A member, employee, or agent of the board who becomes aware that the member, employee, or agent of the board or his or her spouse, parent, or child is a member of the board of directors of, financially interested in, or employed by a licensee or an applicant shall immediately provide detailed written notice thereof to the chairperson.

(4) A member, employee, or agent of the board who within the previous 10 years has been indicted for, charged with, or convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or forfeited bail concerning a misdemeanor involving controlled substances, dishonesty, theft, or fraud or a local ordinance in any state involving controlled substances, dishonesty, theft, or fraud that substantially corresponds to a misdemeanor in that state, or a felony under Michigan law, the laws of any other state, or the laws of the United States or any other jurisdiction shall immediately provide detailed written notice of the conviction or charge to the chairperson.

(5) Any member, employee, or agent of the board who is negotiating for, or acquires by any means, any interest in any person who is a licensee or an applicant, or any person affiliated with such a person, shall immediately provide written notice of the details of the interest to the chairperson. The member, employee, or agent of the board shall not act on behalf of the board with respect to that person.

(6) A member, employee, or agent of the board shall not enter into any negotiations for employment with any person or affiliate of any person who is a licensee or an applicant and shall immediately provide written notice of the details of any such negotiations or discussions in progress to the chairperson. The member, employee, or agent of the board shall not take action on behalf of the board with respect to that person.

(7) Any member, employee, or agent of the board who receives an invitation, written or oral, to initiate a discussion concerning employment or the possibility of employment with a person or affiliate of a person who is a licensee or an applicant shall immediately report that he or she received the invitation to the chairperson. The member, employee, or agent of the board shall not take action on behalf of the board with respect to the person.

(8) A licensee or applicant shall not knowingly initiate a negotiation for or discussion of employment with a member, employee, or agent of the board. A licensee or applicant who initiates a negotiation or discussion about employment shall immediately provide written notice of the details of the negotiation or discussion to the chairperson as soon as he or she becomes aware that the negotiation or discussion has been initiated with a member, employee, or agent of the board.

(9) A member, employee, or agent of the board, or former member, employee, or agent of the board, shall not disseminate or otherwise disclose any material or information in the possession of the board that the board considers confidential unless specifically authorized to do so by the chairperson or the board.

(10) A member, employee, or agent of the board or a parent, spouse, sibling, spouse of a sibling, child, or spouse of a child of a member, employee, or agent of the board shall not accept any gift, gratuity, compensation, travel, lodging, or anything of value, directly or indirectly, from any licensee or any applicant or affiliate or representative of a licensee or applicant, unless the acceptance conforms to a written policy or directive that is issued by the chairperson or the board. Any member, employee, or agent of the board who is offered or receives any gift, gratuity, compensation, travel, lodging, or anything of value, directly or indirectly, from any licensee or any applicant or affiliate or representative of an applicant or licensee shall immediately provide written notification of the details to the chairperson.

(11) A licensee or applicant, or an affiliate or representative of an applicant or licensee, shall not, directly or indirectly, give or offer to give any gift, gratuity, compensation, travel, lodging, or anything of value to any member, employee, or agent of the board that the member, employee, or agent of the board is prohibited from accepting under subsection (10).

(12) A member, employee, or agent of the board shall not engage in any conduct that constitutes a conflict of interest and shall immediately advise the chairperson in writing of the details of any incident or circumstances that would present the existence of a conflict of interest with respect to performing board-related work or duties.

(13) A member, employee, or agent of the board who is approached and offered a bribe as described in section 118 of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.118, or this act shall immediately provide written account of the details of the incident to the chairperson and to a law enforcement officer of a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

(14) A member, employee, or agent of the board shall disclose his or her past involvement with any marijuana enterprise in the past 5 years and shall not engage in political activity or politically related activity during the duration of his or her appointment or employment.

(15) A former member, employee, or agent of the board may appear before the board as a fact witness about matters or actions handled by the member, employee, or agent during his or her tenure as a member, employee, or agent of the board. The member, employee, or agent of the board shall not receive compensation for such an appearance other than a standard witness fee and reimbursement for travel expenses as established by statute or court rule.

(16) A licensee or applicant or any affiliate or representative of an applicant or licensee shall not engage in ex parte communications with a member of the board. A member of the board shall not engage in any ex parte communications with a licensee or an applicant or with any affiliate or representative of an applicant or licensee.

licensee.

(17) Any board member, licensee, or applicant or affiliate or representative of a board member, licensee, or applicant who receives any ex parte communication in violation of subsection (16), or who is aware of an attempted communication in violation of subsection (16), shall immediately report details of the communication or attempted communication in writing to the chairperson.

(18) Any member of the board who receives an ex parte communication in an attempt to influence that member's official action shall disclose the source and content of the communication to the chairperson. The chairperson may investigate or initiate an investigation of the matter with the assistance of the attorney general and state police to determine if the communication violates subsection (16) or subsection (17) or other state law. The disclosure under this section and the investigation are confidential. Following an investigation, the chairperson shall advise the governor or the board, or both, of the results of the investigation and may recommend action as the chairperson considers appropriate. If the chairperson receives such an ex parte communication, he or she shall report the communication to the governor's office for appropriate action.

(19) A new or current employee or agent of the board shall obtain written permission from the director of the department or his or her designee before continuing outside employment held at the time the employee begins to work for the board. Permission shall be denied, or permission previously granted shall be revoked, if the director of the department or his or her designee considers the nature of the work to create a possible conflict of interest or if it would otherwise interfere with the duties of the employee or agent for the board.

(20) An employee or agent of the board granted permission for outside employment shall not conduct any business or perform any activities, including solicitation, related to outside employment on premises used by the board or during the employee's working hours for the board.

(21) The chairperson shall report any action he or she has taken or proposes to take under this section with respect to an employee or agent or former employee or former agent to the board at the next meeting of the board.

(22) Except as allowed under the Michigan medical marihuana act, a member, employee, or agent of the board shall not enter into any personal transaction involving marihuana with a licensee or applicant.

(23) If a licensee or applicant, or an affiliate or representative of a licensee or applicant, violates this section, the board may deny a license application, revoke or suspend a license, or take other disciplinary action as provided in section 407.

(24) Violation of this section by a member of the board may result in disqualification or constitute cause for removal under section 301(7) or other disciplinary action as recommended by the board to the governor.

(25) A violation of this section by an employee or agent of the board need not result in termination of employment if the board determines that the conduct involved does not violate the purpose of this act. However, all of the following apply:

(a) If, after being offered employment or beginning employment with the board, the employee or agent intentionally acquires a financial interest in a licensee or an applicant, or an affiliate or representative of a licensee or applicant, the offer or employment with the board shall be terminated.

(b) If a financial interest in a licensee or an applicant, or an affiliate or representative of a licensee or applicant, is acquired by an employee or agent that has been offered employment with the board, an employee of the board, or the employee's or agent's spouse, parent, or child, through no intentional action of the employee or agent, the individual shall have up to 30 days to divest or terminate the financial interest. Employment may be terminated if the interest has not been divested after 30 days.

(c) Employment shall be terminated if the employee or agent is a spouse, parent, child, or spouse of a child of a board member.

(26) Violation of this section does not create a civil cause of action.

(27) As used in this section:

(a) "Outside employment", in addition to employment by a third party, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) Operation of a proprietorship.

(ii) Participation in a partnership or group business enterprise.

(iii) Performance as a director or corporate officer of any for-profit or nonprofit corporation or banking or credit institution.

(iv) Performance as a manager of a limited liability company.

(b) "Political activity" or "politically related activity" includes all of the following:

(i) Using his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election.

(ii) Knowingly soliciting, accepting, or receiving a political contribution from any person.

(iii) Running for the nomination or as a candidate for election to a partisan political office.

(iv) Knowingly soliciting or discouraging the participation in any political activity of any person who is either of the following:

(A) Applying for any compensation, grant, contract, ruling, license, permit, or certificate pending before the board.

(B) The subject of or a participant in an ongoing audit, investigation, or enforcement action being carried out by the board.

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