

By: Senator C. Penzo

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THAT APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FEES FOR REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS CARDS MAY CAUSE FINANCIAL STRAIN FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS AND MILITARY VETERANS; AND TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLEVIATE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THAT FEES FOR REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS CAUSE A FINANCIAL STRAIN FOR PERSONS AND TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROMULGATE RULES TO EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN.

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 98, established the Medical Marijuana Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance and Administration model predicted thirty thousand (30,000) Arkansans would participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, today, over ninety-two thousand (92,000) people hold active registry identification cards for qualifying patients; and



WHEREAS, seniors and veterans are participants in the program,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Department of Health promulgate a rule to extend the annual renewal for registry identification cards for qualifying patients from one (1) year to two (2) years without increasing the annual fee.

THAT the Department of Health promulgate a rule that discounts the fee for registry identification cards for qualifying patients by fifty percent (50%) for seniors and veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Department of Health is encouraged to expeditiously initiate rulemaking on this matter.