

GEORGIA

MEDICAL CANNABIS ACCESS STATE REPORT CARD 2015



Issue	Possible Points		
PATIENT RIGHTS & CIVIL PROTECTION (total)	100	52	
Arrest protection	40	30	
Affirmative defense	15	10	
Child custody	10	0	
DUID protections	5	0	
Employment	5	5	
Explicit privacy standards.....	7	7	
Housing protections	5	0	
Does not create new criminal penalties for patients	5	0	
Organ transplants	5	0	
Reciprocity	3	0	
EASE OF NAVIGATION (total).....	100	67	
Comprehensive qualifying conditions.....	50	34	
Adding new conditions (total).....	10	0	
Law/Regs allow for new conditions	5	0	
System works for adding new conditions.....	5	0	
Reasonable access for minors.....	10	8	
Reasonable caregiver background check requirements..	4	4	
Number of caregivers	2	1	
Patient/Practitioner focused task force/advisory Board ..	2	2	
Reasonable fees (patients & caregivers).....	10	10	
Allows multiple-year registrations	2	2	
Reasonable physician requirements.....	5	4	
Does not classify cannabis as medicine of last resort.....	5	2	
ACCESS TO MEDICINE (total)	100	15	
Allows distribution programs (total).....	40	0	
Allows access to dried flowers.....	15	0	
Allows delivery	5	0	
No sales tax or reasonable sales tax.....	5	0	
Reasonable number of dispensing facilities	5	0	
Does not require vertical integration	2	0	
Ownership/Employment restrictions	2	0	
Provisions for labor standards	2	0	
Environmental impact regulations	2	0	
Unrestricted choice of dispensary	2	0	
Non-commercial cultivation (total)	20	0	
Personal cultivation.....	15	0	
Collective gardens	5	0	
Explicit right to edibles/concentrates/other forms	10	3	
Does not impose limits or bans on THC	10	5	
Does not impose minimum CBD requirements.....	10	7	
Municipal bans/zoning	10	0	
FUNCTIONALITY (total).....	100	30	
Patients are able to obtain medicine.....	50	0	
Free of significant administrative or supply problems..	15	15	
Legal protections within reasonable time frame	10	8	
Reasonable possession limit (ounces)	5	4	
Reasonable purchase limits.....	5	0	
Allows patients to medicate where they chose	5	3	
Covered by insurance/state health aide.....	3	0	
Financial hardship (fee waivers/discount medicine).....	7	0	
PRODUCT SAFETY (total - see back for details).....	100	n/a	
Dispensing	25	n/a	
Cultivation	25	n/a	
Manufacturing	25	n/a	
Lab.....	25	n/a	
Improvement Bonus.....		25	
Total out of 400.....		189	
Score percentage		47	

Final Grade = F*

Areas for improvement: While the low-THC bill approved this year in Georgia does not allow for in-state production and distribution, the state deserves credit for both creating legal protections through a patient registry and creating a commission that is seriously looking at a comprehensive medical cannabis program for the state's patients. Now the state must take the knowledge it gained this year and create a truly comprehensive program that provides for in-state production and distribution, lifts the arbitrary requirements for CBD and THC, and expands its list of qualifying conditions.

Background: In 2015, the Georgia legislature passed HB 1, which created a patient ID card registry and established a list of eight qualifying conditions so that patients may legally possess and use low-THC medical cannabis products. The law places a 5% cap on THC and requires that products have at least 1:1 ratio of CBD to THC. The law does not allow for in-state production or access, but did create the Georgia Medical Cannabis Commission, which was tasked with investigating other state programs in order to come up with a legislative proposal. In Dec. 2015, the Commission voted against in-state production of medical cannabis.

PRODUCT SAFETY point breakdown

(Point totals by section included in grade calculation on reverse)

Issue	Possible Points		
DISPENSING (total)	25	0	
Dispensary training	5	0	
Operating Procedures and Protocols.....	5	0	
Facility sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols	Y or N	N	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	N	
Inventory control	Y or N	N	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting	5	0	
Product Labeling	5	0	
Product contents including source material ID	Y or N	N	
Allergens	Y or N	N	
Potency/compound identification	Y or N	N	
Required Testing	5	0	
Active ingredient identification	Y or N	N	
Contaminants	Y or N	N	
Potency	Y or N	N	
Sample retention	Y or N	N	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting:	5	0	
CULTIVATION (total).....	25	0	
Cultivation training.....	5	0	
Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols	5	0	
Facility and equipment sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Workforce safety protocols	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols (short and long term)	Y or N	N	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	N	
Batch and lot tracking	Y or N	N	
Disposal/waste	Y or N	N	
Water management	Y or N	N	
Pesticide Guidance and Protocols	5	0	
Pesticide guidance.....	Y or N	N	
Product labeling	Y or N	N	
Required testing	5	0	
Active ingredient identification	Y or N	N	
Contaminants	Y or N	N	
Potency	Y or N	N	
Sample retention	Y or N	N	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting:.....	5	0	
MANUFACTURING (total).....	25	0	
Manufacturing training	5	0	
Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols.....	5	0	
Facility and equipment sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Workforce safety protocols	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols	Y or N	N	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	N	
Batch and lot tracking	Y or N	N	
Product Labeling	5	0	
Product contents with source material ID	Y or N	N	
Allergens	Y or N	N	
Potency/compound identification	Y or N	N	
Required Testing	5	0	
Active ingredient identification	Y or N	N	
Contaminants	Y or N	N	
Potency	Y or N	N	
Shelf life testing	Y or N	N	
Sample retention	Y or N	N	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting:	5	0	
LABORATORY (total).....	25	0	
Lab operations training.....	5	0	
Method validation in accordance with AHP guidelines ..	5	0	
Result reporting - disclose the type of testing used.....	5	0	
Independent or third party certification	5	0	
Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols	5	0	
Equipment and instrument calibration	Y or N	N	
Sample tracking	Y or N	N	
Facility and equipment sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Disposal/waste protocols	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols	Y or N	N	
Workforce safety protocols	Y or N	N	
Total out of 100			n/a

Tools for Success:

Improving your state law has never been easier. In the appendix of this report you will find model legislation and regulators guides for product safety protocols. ASA staff are all also available to draft and/or review legislative and regulatory language. Our website has many resources online including access to our policy shop at http://www.safeaccessnow.org/policy_shop, information for regulators available at <http://patientfocusedcertification.org/about/information-for-regulators/> and a breakdown of all the state laws at http://www.safeaccessnow.org/state_and_federal_law.