



Issue	Possible Points		
PATIENT RIGHTS & CIVIL PROTECTION (total)	100	72	
Arrest protection	40	40	
Affirmative defense	15	15	
Child custody	10	0	
DUID protections	5	5	
Employment	5	0	
Explicit privacy standards.....	7	7	
Housing protections	5	0	
Does not create new criminal penalties for patients	5	5	
Organ transplants	5	0	
Reciprocity	3	0	
EASE OF NAVIGATION (total).....	100	85	
Comprehensive qualifying conditions.....	50	44	
Adding new conditions (total).....	10	7	
Law/Regs allow for new conditions	5	5	
System works for adding new conditions.....	5	2	
Reasonable access for minors.....	10	9	
Reasonable caregiver background check requirements..	4	3	
Number of caregivers	2	2	
Patient/Practitioner focused task force/advisory Board ..	2	0	
Reasonable fees (patients & caregivers).....	10	8	
Allows multiple-year registrations	2	2	
Reasonable physician requirements.....	5	5	
Does not classify cannabis as medicine of last resort.....	5	5	
ACCESS TO MEDICINE (total)	100	70	
Allows distribution programs (total).....	40	18	
Allows access to dried flowers.....	15	5	
Allows delivery	5	5	
No sales tax or reasonable sales tax.....	5	4	
Reasonable number of dispensing facilities	5	3	
Does not require vertical integration	2	0	
Ownership/Employment restrictions	2	1	
Provisions for labor standards	2	0	
Environmental impact regulations	2	0	
Unrestricted choice of dispensary	2	0	
Non-commercial cultivation (total)	20	16	
Personal cultivation.....	15	15	
Collective gardens	5	1	
Explicit right to edibles/concentrates/other forms	10	8	
Does not impose limits or bans on THC	10	10	
Does not impose minimum CBD requirements.....	10	10	
Municipal bans/zoning	10	8	
FUNCTIONALITY (total).....	100	86	
Patients are able to obtain medicine	50	45	
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	4	
Allows patients to medicate where they chose	5	4	
Covered by insurance/state health aide	3	0	
Financial hardship (fee waivers/discount medicine).....	7	6	
PRODUCT SAFETY (total - see back for details).....	100	30	
Dispensing	25	10	
Cultivation	25	10	
Manufacturing	25	10	
Lab	25	0	
Improvement Bonus.....		10	
Total out of 500.....		353	
Score percentage		71	

Final Grade = C-

Areas for improvement: The Rhode Island medical cannabis program continues to do an admirable job of providing safe and legal access to the state's patient population. However, the program has areas in which can improve upon. The two areas in which the state is lagging behind are product safety guidelines and civil discrimination protections regarding housing, employment, organ transplants, and child custody. Adding these components, as well as increasing the number of dispensing locations while preserving the state's caregiver system that many patients have come to rely upon would be welcome improvements.

Background: In 2006, the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act was enacted, allowing patients with a Rhode Island registry ID card to use, possess, and cultivate cannabis. Registered patients may possess up to 2.5 ounces of usable cannabis and may cultivate up to 12 plants. In 2009, the Department of Health was authorized to license not-for-profit compassion centers to distribute medical cannabis. In 2011, Gov. Lincoln Chafee suspended licensing of compassion centers in response to threats from federal prosecutors; he then resumed the program in January 2012, after background checks and additional plant limits were added to the licensing requirements. Rules for the program were revised seven times between 2006 and 2012. Patients may currently appoint up to two primary caregivers for assistance or designate a compassion center as one of the caregivers. Qualified patients and caregivers are entitled to an affirmative defense at trial or dismissal of charges upon demonstrating that they were in compliance. Any property seized in connection with qualified medical use of cannabis is to be returned.

PRODUCT SAFETY point breakdown

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

Issue	Possible Points		
DISPENSING (total)	25	10	
Dispensary training	5	5	
Operating Procedures and Protocols.....	5	4	
Facility sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols	Y or N	Y	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	Y	
Inventory control	Y or N	Y	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting	5	0	
Product Labeling	5	0	
Product contents including source material ID	Y or N	Y	
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	
CULTIVATION (total).....	25	10	
Cultivation training.....	5	5	
Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols	5	3	
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	Y	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	Y	
Batch and lot tracking	Y or N	Y	
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	2	
Active ingredient identification	Y or N	N	
Contaminants	Y or N	N	
Potency	Y or N	N	
Sample retention	Y or N	Y	
Recall protocol and adverse event reporting.....	5	0	
MANUFACTURING (total).....	25	10	
Manufacturing training	5	5	
Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols.....	5	3	
Facility and equipment sanitary conditions	Y or N	N	
Workforce safety protocols	Y or N	N	
Storage protocols	Y or N	Y	
Reasonable security protocols	Y or N	Y	
Batch and lot tracking	Y or N	Y	
Product Labeling	5	2	
Product contents with source material ID	Y or N	Y	
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		30	

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.



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