

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2888

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CENTER FOR MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CANNABIS  
 2 RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CANNABIS RESEARCH AND  
 3 EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI; TO SET CERTAIN DUTIES  
 4 AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTER; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF  
 5 MISSISSIPPI TO PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE CENTER; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN  
 6 RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED AT THE CENTER; TO ESTABLISH THE MEDICAL  
 7 CANNABIS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH SHALL BE THE COMMITTEE  
 8 THAT IS REQUIRED TO ADVISE THE LEGISLATURE ABOUT MEDICAL CANNABIS  
 9 AND CANNABIS PRODUCT, PATIENT CARE, SERVICES AND INDUSTRY; TO  
 10 PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD; TO PROVIDE THE BOARD'S  
 11 RESPONSIBILITIES; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO RECEIVE PER DIEM  
 12 SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
 13 REPORT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEES OF THE  
 14 MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
 15 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CENTER FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH;  
 16 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created the Center for  
 19 Mississippi Medical Cannabis Research at the National Center for  
 20 Cannabis Research and Education at the University of Mississippi.

21 (2) The center:

22 (a) Shall seek state, federal and private funds to  
 23 award grants for medical cannabis research;



24 (b) Shall facilitate and support funding for research  
25 related to the health effects, including the potential risks or  
26 side effects, of the use of cannabis products;

27 (c) Shall facilitate and support funding for research  
28 related to the efficacy and potential health effects of various  
29 cannabis delivery methods, including vaporizing, ingesting,  
30 topical application, and combustion;

31 (d) Shall support researchers in applying for and  
32 securing federal and private research grant funding for expanding  
33 medical cannabis research;

34 (e) Shall review current and future cannabis research  
35 literature, clinical studies, and clinical trials;

36 (f) Shall educate medical providers, lawmakers, and the  
37 public about medical cannabis research advances;

38 (g) Shall, if requested, consult with researchers and  
39 eligible institutions seeking to conduct medical cannabis research  
40 regarding legal implications of the research under state and  
41 federal law;

42 (h) Shall monitor, to the extent that is appropriate  
43 and when sufficient data is available, patient outcomes in any  
44 state with a medicinal cannabis program;

45 (i) May coordinate, share knowledge, and share best  
46 practices with a state:

47 (i) That has a medical cannabis program; and

48 (ii) Is conducting cannabis research;



49           (j) May award or facilitate funding for grants to an  
50 eligible institution for medical cannabis research, including  
51 research regarding the growing of a medical-grade cannabis plant  
52 that is used for a cannabis product;

53           (k) May support a licensed cannabis cultivation  
54 facility to provide medical-grade cannabis products for research;

55           (l) Shall make, for research conducted by the center,  
56 the research outcomes publicly available;

57           (m) Shall maintain a catalog of all published  
58 scientific reports based on projects funded or managed by the  
59 center;

60           (n) Shall ensure that an individual who agrees to use a  
61 cannabis product as part of a research project conducted by the  
62 center or a grantee:

63                 (i) Is a registered, qualifying patient  
64 cardholder; or

65                 (ii) If included in the research project as a  
66 resident of another state, has the equivalent of such  
67 certification under the laws of another state, district,  
68 territory, commonwealth or insular possession of the United  
69 States;

70           (o) Shall provide information to the  
71 Department of Health describing:



72 (i) All research projects that are funded by a  
73 grant awarded by the center, including which institution received  
74 the grant;

75 (ii) All research projects conducted by the  
76 center; and

77 (iii) The adequacy of funding for the center's  
78 duties.

79 (3) For research funded, conducted, or facilitated by the  
80 center, the center shall ensure the research:

81 (a) Includes appropriate research development, testing,  
82 and evaluation; and

83 (b) If the research involves human subjects, is  
84 reviewed, approved, and overseen by an institutional review board.

85 (4) The University of Mississippi shall provide staff for  
86 the center.

87 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is established the Medical Cannabis  
88 Research Advisory Board, which shall be the committee that is  
89 required to advise the Legislature about medical cannabis and  
90 cannabis product, patient care, services and industry.

91 (2) The advisory committee shall consist of eleven (11)  
92 members, as follows:

93 (a) The Governor shall appoint four (4) members to the  
94 committee, as follows:

95 (i) Two (2) Medical Cannabis Researchers from the  
96 University of Mississippi's NCCRE;



97                   (ii) One (1) registered qualifying patient; and  
98                   (iii) One (1) physician who is a Mississippi  
99 registered cannabis practitioner with over one hundred (100)  
100 cannabis patients.

101               (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint four (4)  
102 members, as follows:

103                   (i) One (1) owner or agent of a medical cannabis  
104 cultivation facility;

105                   (ii) One (1) representative from the MDOH;

106                   (iii) One (1) advanced practice registered nurse  
107 who is a Mississippi registered cannabis practitioner with over  
108 one hundred (100) patients; and

109                   (iv) One (1) pharmacist.

110               (c) The Speaker of the House shall appoint three (3)  
111 members, as follows:

112                   (i) One (1) owner or agent of a medical cannabis  
113 processing facility;

114                   (ii) One (1) epidemiologist; and

115                   (iii) One (1) patient care advocate.

116               (3) The advisory committee shall meet at least every three  
117 (3) months or as often as necessary for the purpose of evaluating  
118 and making recommendations to the Legislature and the MDOH and  
119 MDOR regarding:



120 (a) Developing evidence-based guidance for treatment  
121 with medical cannabis based on the latest medical research that  
122 shall include:

123 (i) For each qualifying condition, a summary of  
124 the latest medical research regarding the treatment of the  
125 qualifying condition with medical cannabis;

126 (ii) Risks, contraindications, side effects, and  
127 adverse reactions that are associated with medical cannabis use;  
128 and

129 (iii) Potential drug interactions between medical  
130 cannabis and medications that have been approved by the United  
131 States Food and Drug Administration; and

132 (b) Educate recommending medical providers, pharmacy  
133 medical providers, medical cannabis cardholders, and the public  
134 regarding:

135 (i) The evidence-based guidance for treatment with  
136 medical cannabis;

137 (ii) Relevant warnings and safety information  
138 related to medical cannabis use; and

139 (iii) Other topics related to medical cannabis use  
140 as determined by the department.

141 (4) The Chairman of the Medical Cannabis Research Advisory  
142 Board shall be elected by the voting members of the committee  
143 annually and shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive years  
144 as chairman.



145 (5) The members of the Medical Cannabis Research Advisory  
146 Board specified in subsection (2) of this section shall serve for  
147 terms that are concurrent with the terms of members of the  
148 Legislature, and any member appointed under subsection (2) of this  
149 section may be reappointed to the advisory board. The members of  
150 the advisory board specified in subsection (2) of this section  
151 shall serve without compensation but shall receive reimbursement  
152 to defray actual expenses incurred in the performance of committee  
153 business as authorized by law.

154 The board shall:

155 (a) Nominate a board member to serve as chairperson of  
156 the board by a majority vote of the board members; and

157 (b) Meet as often as necessary to accomplish the duties  
158 assigned to the board under this act.

159 (6) Each board member, including the chair, has one (1)  
160 vote.

161 (7) (a) A majority of board members constitutes a quorum.

162 (b) A vote of a majority of the quorum at any board  
163 meeting is necessary to take action on behalf of the board.

164 (8) Subject to appropriation, a board member:

165 (a) Shall receive a per diem in the amount provided in  
166 Section 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business of the board;  
167 and



168 (b) Shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses  
169 incurred while engaged in official business of the board in  
170 accordance with Section 25-3-41.

171 **SECTION 3.** (1) By the November interim meeting each year  
172 beginning in 2024, the department shall report to the Public  
173 Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi State Senate and  
174 the House of Representatives on information provided by the Center  
175 for Medical Cannabis Research described in this act.

176 (2) The department shall not include personally identifying  
177 information in the report described in this section.

178 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
179 and after July 1, 2024.

