

ASSEMBLY, No. 1708

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

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District 7 (Burlington)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires workers' compensation and PIP coverage for medical marijuana under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning medical marijuana and insurance coverage,
2 amending P.L.2009, c.307, and supplementing various parts of
3 the statutory law.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. Section 16 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-14) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 16. a. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a
11 government medical assistance program or private health insurer to
12 reimburse a person for costs associated with the medical use of
13 marijuana, or an employer to accommodate the medical use of
14 marijuana in any workplace.

15 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this
16 section, an employer or workers' compensation insurance carrier or
17 private passenger automobile insurance carrier shall provide
18 coverage for costs associated with the medical use of marijuana
19 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
20 this bill).

21 (cf: P.L.2009, c.307, s.16)
22

23 2. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that
24 scientific data indicate that medical marijuana has significant
25 medical value when used in the treatment of certain injuries and
26 diseases, including pain relief, control of nausea and vomiting, and
27 appetite stimulation. Marijuana also has potential therapeutic value
28 from effects such as anxiety reduction, sedation, and euphoria.
29 Scientific studies have found that marijuana is effective in relieving
30 some of the symptoms of HIV/AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, and
31 multiple sclerosis. Other studies have suggested that medical
32 marijuana legalization may lead to decreased prescription opioid
33 abuse.

34 Although medical marijuana has many useful therapeutic
35 benefits, its use is limited because its costs are not covered by
36 insurance. By requiring coverage for medical marijuana under
37 workers' compensation and private passenger automobile insurance,
38 access to these benefits will be expanded. Additionally, medical
39 marijuana may lower costs for insurers by providing a more
40 economical alternative to more expensive and risky drugs such as
41 opioids.
42

43 3. (New section) Personal injury protection benefits provided
44 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1972, c.70 (C.39:6A-4) or section 4 of
45 P.L.1998, c.21 (C.39:6A-3.1) shall include coverage for costs
46 associated with the medical use of marijuana provided that:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

