

PRESS RELEASE
Little Rock, Arkansas
July 8, 2016

Today Arkansans United for Medical Marijuana turned in over 106,000 signatures to the Arkansas Secretary of State to qualify the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment for the November ballot. The Amendment authorizes the medical use of marijuana if prescribed by a physician if the patient suffers from one of fourteen specified medical conditions.

The patient aspects of the Amendment are regulated by the Arkansas Department of Health. The Department of Health is also charged with the responsibility of maintaining an electronic database to ensure that no one who is not authorized to receive medical marijuana gets it and that no individual receives more than they are allowed by law to receive.

The Amendment authorizes up to forty dispensaries and up to eight cultivation facilities. No one individual may own an interest in more than one dispensary or more than one cultivation facility. An independent citizens commission is established by the Amendment to determine who is awarded the licenses to operate the dispensaries and the cultivation facilities. The Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is charged with the responsibility inspecting the dispensaries and cultivation facilities to make sure that they are in compliance with all the applicable rules and regulations.

The Amendment provides that the sale of medical marijuana is subject to all state and local sales taxes. The state sales tax revenue is dedicated to cover the costs of the Department of Health and the Alcoholic Beverage Commission so that the medical marijuana program does not cost the state taxpayers. The remaining state sales tax revenue is dedicated to workforce skills training and vocational and technical institutes as well as the state's general revenues. While the proposal is a constitutional amendment all provisions other than ones making medical marijuana legal and the fact that dispensaries and cultivation facilities are allowed can be changed by the General Assembly with a two-thirds vote.

Arkansans for Compassionate Care has suggested that we no longer pursue this Amendment. The primary difference between the two proposals is that the act proposed by Arkansans for Compassionate Care allows individuals to grow up to 10 marijuana plants or another individual can grow up to 50 marijuana plants for 5 patients. All polls indicate that over 80% of Arkansans support patients being able to use medical marijuana when prescribed by a physician. Those same polls indicate that less than 50% of Arkansans support a proposal that would allow patients to grow their own medical marijuana. With such overwhelming support for the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment we intend to continue pursuing this Amendment so that the patients of Arkansas can get the medicine that they so desperately need.

Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment

106,268 signatures

17,819 pages

Qualifying Counties

Benton

Boone

Bradley

Cleveland

Faulkner

Garland

Hot Spring

Jefferson

Lonoke

Miller

Newton

Ouachita

Perry

Phillips

Pope

Pulaski

Saline

Sebastian

St. Francis

Union

Van Buren

Washington

White



ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

MARK MARTIN

Receipt for Initiative Petition

Name of Petition:

ARKANSAS MEDICAL MARIJUANA AMENDMENT

Petition Sponsor:

ARKANSIANS UNITED FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Person Designated as Contact to Receive Information from Secretary of State:

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Number of Pages the Petition Representative believes has been submitted:

17,819

Number of Signatures the Petition Representative believes has been submitted:

106,268

List of the 15 counties designated by the Petition Sponsor:

Benton, Boone, Bradley, Cleveland, Faulkner, Garland, Hot Spring, Jefferson, Lonoke, Miller, Newton, Ouachita, Perry, Phillips, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Sebastian, St. Francis, Union, Van Buren, Washington.

This petition submitted to the Arkansas Secretary of State on the 8 day White

of July, 2016, at 11:40 am (time).

Petition Representative David Couch

Secretary of State Representative Leslie Bell

FILED

JUL 08 2016

Arkansas Secretary of State

