

Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** September 3, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Medical Marijuana Reciprocity Proposed  
Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2019

**REFERENCE:** Draft Resolution as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on  
August 23, 2019

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the resolution.

**Background**

The Department of Health (DOH) allows medical marijuana patients from other jurisdictions to participate in the District's Medical Marijuana Program. Out-of-state patients can purchase, possess, and use medical marijuana in the District. The resolution approves rules from DOH that establish regulations governing the participation of nonresident qualifying patients<sup>1</sup>. Specifically, the rules require medical marijuana dispensaries to:

- Verify a nonresident qualifying patient's identity by examining a patient's unexpired government-issued identification card and unexpired nonresident card.<sup>2</sup> If a nonresident qualifying patient is unable to produce these documents, dispensaries are prohibited from dispensing medical marijuana to that patient.
- Confirm through the electronic records data system that a nonresident qualifying patient has

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<sup>1</sup> Nonresident Qualifying Patients are individuals enrolled in another jurisdiction's medical marijuana program.

<sup>2</sup> Nonresident Cards are issued by states to medical marijuana patients. The state must have an active medical marijuana program that offers full reciprocity to the District's qualifying patients and is functionally equivalent to the District of Columbia Medical Marijuana Program.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Medical Marijuana Reciprocity Proposed Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2019" Draft resolution as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on August 23, 2019

not received four ounces of medical marijuana from a D.C. dispensary within the past thirty days. If a nonresident qualifying patient received four ounces of medical marijuana within thirty days, dispensaries are prohibited from dispensing medical marijuana to that patient.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the resolution. The rules do not have an impact on the DOH budget since dispensaries are privately owned and operated. DOH already has a staff member assigned to oversee the medical marijuana reciprocity program and enforce the proposed rules.