AN ACT

1 Providing for the medical use of marijuana.
2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:
3 Section 1. Short title.
4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Governor Raymond P. Shafer Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act.
5 Section 2. Definitions.
6 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
7 "Bona fide physician-patient relationship." A physician who has completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition, including a personal physical examination.
8 "Compassion center." A facility where usable marijuana may be dispensed for medical use.
9 "Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act." The
act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled
Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

"Debilitating medical condition." This term includes any of the following:

(1) cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome or the treatment of these conditions;

(2) a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces one or more of the following: cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe or chronic pain; severe nausea; seizures, including, but not limited to, those characteristic of epilepsy; severe and persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, those characteristic of multiple sclerosis or Crohn's disease; or

(3) any other weakening medical condition or its treatment that is recognized by licensed medical authorities as being treatable with marijuana in a manner that is superior to treatment without marijuana.

"Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

"Marijuana." As the term is defined using the spelling "marihuana" under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

"Medical use." The acquisition, possession, cultivation, manufacture, use, delivery, transfer or transportation of marijuana or paraphernalia relating to a qualifying patient's consumption of marijuana to alleviate the symptoms or effects of the patient's debilitating medical condition.

"Physician." A person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the laws of this Commonwealth.
"Primary caregiver" or "caregiver." A person who is at least 18 years of age, who has never been convicted of a felony drug offense, has agreed to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana and has been designated as primary caregiver on the qualifying patient's application or renewal for a registry identification card or in other written notification to the Department of Health. A primary caregiver shall only have one qualifying patient at a time. A primary caregiver does not include the qualifying patient's physician.

"Qualifying patient" or "patient." A person who has been diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating medical condition.

"Registry identification card." A document issued by the Department of Health that identifies a person as a qualifying patient or primary caregiver. The term shall include a registry identification card or its equivalent issued by another state government to permit the medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or to permit a person to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

"Usable marijuana." The dried leaves and flowers of marijuana, and any mixture or preparation thereof, and does not include the seeds, stalks and roots of the plant.

"Written certification." The qualifying patient's medical records, or a statement signed by a physician licensed in accordance with the laws of this Commonwealth with whom the patient has a bona fide physician-patient relationship, stating that in the physician's professional opinion, after having completed a full assessment of the qualifying patient's medical history and current medical condition, the qualifying patient...
has a debilitating medical condition for which the potential
benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh
the health risks for the qualifying patient and would likely be
superior to treatment without the medical use of marijuana.

Section 3. Compassion centers.

(a) Duty of department.--The department may establish its
own and shall license a privately owned nonprofit compassion
center. The department shall award private licenses by
competitive bid. There may not be more than one compassion
center per 250,000 residents.

(b) Sales tax.--State sales tax at the rate imposed under
Article II of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as
the Tax Reform Code of 1971, shall be imposed on all sales of
marijuana in this Commonwealth. If the county where a sale of
marijuana for medical use occurs has a sales tax, that sales tax
shall be imposed on the sale also.

(c) Growth, processing or distribution of marijuana for
medical treatment.--A compassion center shall maintain records
of all marijuana it grows, processes or distributes for medical
treatment and shall make its records available for inspection by
the department.

Section 4. Medical use of marijuana permitted.

(a) Freedom from arrest, prosecution or penalty.--

(1) A qualifying patient may not be subject to arrest,
prosecution or penalty in any manner, or denied a right or
privilege, including, but not limited to, civil penalty or
disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for
the medical use of marijuana, provided that the patient
possesses a registry identification card and no more than six
marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana.
(2) There shall exist a rebuttable presumption that a qualifying patient is engaged in the medical use of marijuana if he possesses a registry identification card and no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana. The presumption may be rebutted by evidence that conduct related to marijuana was not for the purpose of alleviating the symptoms or effects of a patient's debilitating medical condition.

(3) A qualifying patient may assert the medical use of marijuana as an affirmative defense to a prosecution involving marijuana unless the patient was in violation of this section when the events giving rise to the prosecution occurred. The defense shall be presumed valid where the evidence shows both of the following:

(i) At the time of the events giving rise to the prosecution, the patient's medical records indicated or a physician stated that, in the physician's professional opinion, after having completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a bona fide physician-patient relationship, the potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the patient.

(ii) The patient and his caregiver, if any, were collectively in possession of no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana.

(4) Possession of, or application for, a registry identification card shall not alone constitute probable cause to search the person or the property of the person possessing or applying for the registry identification card, or
(5) The provisions of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, relating to destruction of marijuana do not apply if a qualifying patient has in the patient's possession a registry identification card and no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana.

(b) Patients under 18 years of age.--The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to a qualifying patient under 18 years of age, unless:

(1) the patient's physician has explained to the patient and the patient's custodial parent, guardian or person having legal custody the potential risks and benefits of the medical use of marijuana; and

(2) the custodial parent, guardian or person having legal custody consents in writing to: allow the patient's medical use of marijuana; serve as the patient's primary caregiver; and control the acquisition, dosage and frequency of the medical use of marijuana by the patient.

(c) Immunity of primary caregiver.--

(1) A primary caregiver who has in his possession a registry identification card is not subject to arrest, prosecution or penalty in any manner or denied a right or privilege, including, but not limited to, civil penalty or disciplinary action by a professional licensing board, for assisting a qualifying patient to whom the caregiver is connected through the department's registration process with the medical use of marijuana, provided that the caregiver possesses no more than six marijuana plants and six ounces of usable marijuana for the patient to whom he is connected.
through the department's registration process.

(2) There shall exist a rebuttable presumption that a primary caregiver is engaged in the medical use of marijuana if the caregiver possesses a registry identification card and no more than six marijuana plants and six ounces of usable marijuana. The presumption may be rebutted by evidence that conduct related to marijuana was not for the purpose of alleviating the symptoms or effects of a qualifying patient's debilitating medical condition.

(3) A primary caregiver may assert the medical use of marijuana as an affirmative defense to a prosecution involving marijuana unless the caregiver was in violation of this section when the events giving rise to the prosecution occurred. The defense shall be presumed valid where the evidence shows that:

(i) at the time of the events giving rise to the prosecution, the patient's medical records indicated or a physician stated that, in the physician's professional opinion, after having completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a bona fide physician-patient relationship, the potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the patient; and

(ii) the patient and his caregiver, if any, were collectively in possession of no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana.

(4) Possession of, or application for, a registry identification card shall not alone constitute probable cause to search a person or property of a person possessing or
applying for the registry identification card or otherwise subject the person or his property to inspection by any governmental agency.

(5) The provisions of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, relating to destruction of marijuana determined to exist by the department, do not apply if a primary caregiver has in his possession a registry identification card and no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana.

(d) Immunity of physician.--A physician is not subject to arrest, prosecution or penalty in any manner, or denied a right or privilege, including, but not limited to, civil penalty or disciplinary action by the State Board of Medicine for providing written certification for the medical use of marijuana to a qualifying patient.

(e) Personal proximity.--A person is not subject to arrest or prosecution for constructive possession, conspiracy or any other offense for simply being in the presence or vicinity of the medical use of marijuana as permitted under this act.

(f) Additional.--No more than three ounces of usable marijuana may be taken from the compassion centers over any 14-day period.

Section 5. Operation of a motorized vehicle prohibited.

The provisions of this act shall not be construed to permit a person to operate, navigate or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft or motorboat while under the influence of marijuana; or smoke marijuana in a school bus or other form of public transportation, on school grounds, in a correctional facility, at a public park or beach, at a recreation center or at a place where cigarette smoking is
prohibited by law or by organizational policy. A person who
commits an act as provided in this section shall be subject to
penalties as provided by law.

Section 6. Licit property.

Any marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia, licit property or
interest in licit property that is possessed, owned or used in
connection with the medical use of marijuana as allowed under
this act, or acts incidental to the use, may not be seized or
forfeited.

Section 7. Misrepresentation prohibited.

It shall be a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 5503 (relating to
disorderly conduct) for a person to fabricate or misrepresent a
registry identification card to a law enforcement official.

Section 8. Registry identification cards.

(a) Registry.--The department shall establish a registry and
shall issue a registry identification card to a qualifying
patient who submits the following information in accordance with
the department's regulations:

(1) written certification that the person is a
qualifying patient;

(2) an application or renewal fee of not less than $50,
which may be based on a sliding scale as determined by the
secretary;

(3) name, address and date of birth of the patient;

(4) name, address and telephone number of the patient's
physician; and

(5) name, address and date of birth of the patient's
primary caregiver, if any.

(b) Issuance of registry identification card to qualified
patient.--Before issuing a registry identification card, the
department shall verify the information contained in the
application or renewal form submitted under this section. The
department shall approve or deny an application or renewal no
later than 15 days from receipt of the application or renewal
and shall issue a registry identification card no later than
five days from approving the application or renewal. The
department may deny an application or renewal only if the
applicant fails to provide the information required under this
section or if the department determines that the information was
falsified. Denial of an application is considered a final agency
decision, subject to review by the Commonwealth Court and the
Supreme Court.

(c) Issuance of registry identification card to caregiver.--
The department shall issue a registry identification card to the
caregiver named in a patient's approved application if the
caregiver signs a statement agreeing to provide marijuana only
to the patient who has named him as caregiver.

(d) Information on face of registry identification card.--A
registry identification card shall contain the following
information:

(1) the name, address and date of birth of the patient;
(2) the name, address and date of birth of the patient's
caregiver, if any;
(3) the date of issuance and expiration date of the
registry identification card;
(4) photo identification of the cardholder; and
(5) other information that the department may specify in
its regulations.

(e) Changes in listed information.--A patient who has been
issued a registry identification card shall notify the
department of a change in the patient's name, address, physician
or caregiver, or change in status of the patient's debilitating
medical condition, no later than ten days from change, or the
registry identification card shall be deemed null and void.

(f) Right-to-Know Law inapplicable.--The department shall
maintain a confidential list of the persons to whom it has
issued registry identification cards. Individual names and other
identifying information on the list shall be confidential, and
shall not be considered a public record under the act of
February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-To-Know Law,
and may not be disclosed except to:

(1) authorized employees of the department as necessary
to perform official duties of the department; or

(2) authorized employees of State or local law
enforcement agencies, only as necessary to verify that a
person who is engaged in the suspected or alleged medical use
of marijuana is lawfully in possession of a registry
identification card.

Section 9. Discrimination prohibited.

(a) Prohibition.--The following acts are prohibited:

(1) A school or landlord refusing to enroll or lease to,
or otherwise penalize, a person solely for being a registered
qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver,
unless failing to do so would cause the school or landlord to
lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under Federal
law or regulations.

(2) Disqualifying an otherwise qualified patient from
needed medical care. For the purposes of medical care,
including organ transplants, a registered qualifying
patient's authorized use of marijuana in accordance with this
chapter shall be considered the equivalent of the authorized
use of any other medication used at the direction of a
physician and does not constitute the use of an illicit
substance.

(3) Unless a failure to do so would cause an employer to
lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under Federal
law or Federal regulations, an employer may not discriminate
against a person in hiring, termination or a term or
condition of employment or otherwise penalize a person, if
the discrimination is based on either of the following:

(i) The person's status as a card holder.

(ii) A registered qualifying patient's positive drug
test for marijuana components or metabolites, unless the
patient used, possessed or was impaired by marijuana on
the premises of the place of employment or during the
hours of employment.

(b) Custody.--A person otherwise entitled to custody or
visitation or parenting time with a minor may not be denied such
right, and there shall be no presumption of neglect or child
endangerment, for conduct allowed under this chapter, unless the
person's actions in relation to marijuana created an
unreasonable danger to the safety of the minor as established by
clear and convincing evidence.

(c) State benefit.--No school, landlord or employer may be
penalized or denied a benefit under State law for enrolling,
leasing to or employing a card holder.

Section 10. Safety compliance.

The department is to monitor or to create a monitoring system
that will test the potency and contamination of marijuana that
is offered under this act. A monitor licensed by the department
may remove from distribution a product that does not meet
department standards.

Section 11. Funding.

The secretary may accept from any governmental department or
agency, public or private body or any other source a grant or
contribution to be used in carrying out the purposes of this
act.

Section 12. Reports by secretary.

The secretary shall report annually to the Governor and the
General Assembly on the number of applications for registry
identification cards, the number of qualifying patients and
primary caregivers approved, the nature of the debilitating
medical conditions of the patients, the number of registry
identification cards revoked and the number of physicians
providing written certifications for patients. The report may
not contain any identifying information of patients, caregivers
or physicians.

Section 13. Health insurance.

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

Section 14. Sovereign immunity.

The State may not be held liable for a deleterious outcome
resulting from the medical use of marijuana by a qualifying
patient.

Section 15. Rules and regulations.

The secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations to
effectuate the purposes of this act. The regulations shall
establish the application and renewal form, process and fee
schedule and any limitations in the public interest on
debilitating medical conditions not specifically included in
this act.


The Pennsylvania State Police shall advise the department and
caregivers on effective security measures for the possession and
transportation of medical marijuana and shall inspect sites if
requested.

Section 17. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 90 days.