

HOUSE No. 1050

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Geoff Diehl, (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to a medical marijuana pilot program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James Crosby

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

600 Chestnut Street Abington MA, 02351

HOUSE No. 1050

By Mr. Diehl of Whitman (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1050) of James Crosby relative to the establishment of a medical marijuana pilot program. Marijuana Policy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to a medical marijuana pilot program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
2 of public health shall establish a pilot program for veterans to use medical marijuana to treat
3 medical conditions that are currently being treated with opioid-based medicine and combat
4 opioid use disorder. The program shall be known as the Crosby project and shall have 3 phases .

5
6 (a) During phase 1, the department shall: (i) conduct research, including but not limited
7 to: (1) reviewing medical research regarding the administration of medical marijuana, (2)
8 reviewing medical marijuana delivery devices and identifying those devices which may be
9 prescribed to a patient to achieve proper dosing, (3) consulting with veterans’ organizations
10 throughout the United States which promote the use of medical marijuana, including conducting
11 on-site visits, as necessary; (ii) evaluate current medical marijuana programs within the
12 commonwealth, including but not limited to: (1) comparing the commonwealth’s programs with

13 other medical marijuana programs within the United States, (2) evaluating the strengths and
14 weaknesses of said programs, and (3) collaborating with other states who are evaluating medical
15 marijuana programs to combat opiate use disorder; and (iii) develop a basic program structure,
16 including but not limited to: (1) constructing a program outline, (2) developing a list of medical
17 professionals interested in participating in the Crosby project, and (3) conducting a study to find
18 veterans willing and eligible to participate in the Crosby project.

19 (b) During phase 2, the department shall: (i) launch the pilot program in a physical
20 location in or near Boston , which shall be known as the veterans alternative health and wellness
21 center; (ii) hire appropriate staff for the center, which may include: (1) medical professionals, (2)
22 veterans advocacy case managers, (3) veterans contracted through work therapy programs,
23 including Veterans Contracting, Inc. ; and (iii) produce a marketing campaign including local
24 veterans and celebrities to reduce the stigma of medical marijuana. The department may provide
25 additional support for veterans at the center, including: (i) on-site housing, provided in
26 conjunction with non-profit organizations focused on ending homelessness; and (ii) alternative
27 health care, which may include: (1) acupuncture, (2) natural medicine, (3) yoga and (4) massage
28 therapy.

29 (c) During phase 3, the department shall: (i) evaluate pilot program results; and (ii)
30 develop, with the use of pilot program results, and construct a statewide civilian pilot program to
31 use medical marijuana to treat medical conditions that are currently being treated with opioid-
32 based medicine and combat opioid use disorder.

33 SECTION 2. The department shall compile a report detailing its research findings and the
34 program outline and shall submit that report to not later than June 30, 2017.