

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 122**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida*

*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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/20/2023</i>

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By Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 122) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida and others for legislation to establish a pilot program for veterans to use medical marijuana to treat medical conditions that are currently being treated with opioid-based medicine and combat opioid use disorder. Cannabis Policy.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE [Refile Branch], NO. OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

6 (a) During phase 1, the department shall: (i) conduct research, including but not  
7 limited 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 the 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; and  
23 (iii) produce a marketing campaign including local veterans and celebrities to reduce the stigma  
24 of medical marijuana. The department may provide additional support for veterans at the center,  
25 including: (i) on-site housing, provided in conjunction with non-profit organizations focused on  
26 ending homelessness; and (ii) alternative health care, which may include: (1) acupuncture, (2)  
27 natural medicine, (3) yoga and (4) massage therapy.

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

32           SECTION 2. The department shall compile a report detailing its research findings and the  
33 program outline and shall submit that report to not later than December 31, 2024.