

2021 -- H 5545

=====  
LC000121  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Alzate, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 12, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws entitled "Nurses" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following section:

3           **5-34-50. Written certification authorizing the use of medical marijuana.**

4           (a) Certified nurse practitioners, as defined in § 5-34-3, are expressly authorized to sign a  
5 written certification stating that in their professional opinion the potential benefit of the medical  
6 use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for a person who has been certified by a  
7 practitioner as having a debilitating medical condition and is a resident of the state of Rhode Island.  
8 The written certification shall be made only in the course of a bona fide practitioner-patient  
9 relationship after the certified nurse practitioner has completed a full assessment of the qualifying  
10 patient's medical history. The written certification shall specify the qualifying patient's debilitating  
11 medical condition or conditions which may include the qualifying patient's relevant medical  
12 records.

13           (b) A certified nurse practitioner shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in  
14 any manner, or denied any right or privilege, including, but not limited to, civil penalty or  
15 disciplinary action by the Rhode Island board of nursing, or an employer or occupational or  
16 professional licensing board or bureau solely for providing written certifications in accordance with  
17 this section and regulations promulgated by the department of health, or for otherwise stating that,  
18 in the certified nurse practitioner's professional opinion, the potential benefits of the medical  
19 marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for a patient.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC000121  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

\*\*\*

1           This act would authorize certified nurse practitioners to sign a written certification stating  
2 that in their professional opinion, the potential benefits of use of medical marijuana to their patient,  
3 who has a debilitating medical condition, outweigh their potential health risks.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC000121  
=====