

# 2024 medical cannabis law updates

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This document explains changes made to some Utah medical cannabis laws during the 2024 Utah General Legislative Session. Not all changes or new laws are included. A complete copy of the legislation mentioned below is available at [leg.utah.gov](https://leg.utah.gov). This summary is for general information purposes only and should not be used as legal advice. The new laws start on 5/1/2024 unless another date is specified in the explanation.

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## [Senate Bill 233 | Medical Cannabis Amendments](#)

### **For patients**

- Patients can buy medical cannabis suppositories and new medical cannabis edibles, like chews.
- Patients can order medical cannabis delivery to their work. If they work at a school, church, public playground, or a public park, they can't order a medical cannabis delivery there.

### **For providers**

- Limited medical providers can petition the Compassionate Use Board.
- Qualified medical providers can petition the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for patients to purchase more medical cannabis than the monthly limit. This is only for patients who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, are expected to live less than 6 months, and who need the waiver for palliative purposes.
- Qualified medical providers and medical clinics can use targeted marketing, like emails, in-person events, or handouts, to advertise. Administrative rules from DHHS will provide specific guidelines for providers to follow when using targeted marketing.
- Qualified medical providers can be penalized by DHHS if they provide a medical cannabis recommendation at an office or clinic that isn't following targeted marketing laws.

### **For medical cannabis growers, processors, and pharmacies**

- Medical cannabis companies can't use anti-competitive behavior that would monopolize the Utah medical cannabis market. Anti-competitive behavior can include collaborating with other companies to dominate the market, buying out other companies to control the market, or preventing new companies from entering the market.

- The Cannabis Production Establishment and Pharmacy Licensing Advisory Board can review and approve requests for medical cannabis pharmacies to change locations.
- Medical cannabis processors can use targeted marketing, like emails, in-person events, or handouts. Administrative rules from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) will provide specific guidelines for companies to follow when using targeted marketing.
- Cannabis production companies and medical cannabis pharmacies can't hire workers who have a federal or state felony conviction in the past 10 years. Production and pharmacy owners can't have a federal or state felony conviction in the past 10 years, either.

#### **For others**

- Police officers can only use the electronic verification system to verify a medical cannabis card in situations related to the administration of criminal justice. Administration of criminal justice can include identifying a crime, collecting evidence, arresting a person, or during a trial.
- State or local governments can only discipline employees for medical cannabis use if they would discipline another employee the same way for using a different controlled substance and if they have a written policy about controlled substances.

## **House Bill 389 | Medical Cannabis Pharmacy Modifications**

#### **For medical cannabis pharmacies**

- Medical cannabis companies have a limit on the number of medical cannabis pharmacies they can own. They can't own more than 30% of the total number of pharmacies in Utah. This number is rounded down to the nearest whole number from the calculation. For example, if there are 16 medical cannabis pharmacies in the state, then each company is limited to 4 pharmacies.
- The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) can approve new pharmacies that only offer medical cannabis delivery services. These are called "closed-door medical cannabis pharmacies." Each region of the state can have different numbers of closed-door medical cannabis pharmacies.
- Only 3 closed-door medical cannabis pharmacies are allowed before July 1, 2027.
- The pharmacist-in-charge decides which products are stocked at each medical cannabis pharmacy.

#### **For others**

- The Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board must choose a board chair and vice-chair each year. Either the chair or the vice-chair must be a board member appointed by DHHS.

## **House Bill 534 | Boards and Commissions Modifications**

- The Cannabis Research Review Board will end on July 1, 2026.