

A bill for an act

relating to public safety; authorizing courts to recognize a medical necessity defense for certain criminal, administrative, and civil cases involving marijuana; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 152.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[152.30] MEDICAL NECESSITY DEFENSE; MARIJUANA.**

Subdivision 1. **Medical necessity defense not precluded.** No Minnesota law may be construed, directly or by implication, to deny a defendant in a criminal proceeding, or a person involved in a civil or administrative proceeding, the right to introduce evidence or testimony regarding a medical need to use marijuana, or a therapeutic benefit derived from marijuana, where the evidence or testimony is acceptable as a mitigating or exculpatory circumstance in the proceeding. This evidence or testimony is also not precluded from consideration in the course of an appeal, under established rules, of any verdict, ruling, or decision reached in a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding.

Subd. 2. **Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:

(1) charges under section 152.021, subdivision 1; 152.022, subdivision 1; 152.023, subdivision 1; or 152.024, subdivision 1, that involve the sale of more than a small amount of marijuana; or

(2) any purely private contractual or disciplinary situation involving an employer and an employee, unless specifically incorporated into a collective bargaining agreement.