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Key Aspects of State and D.C. Medical Marijuana Laws

State	Year Initially Enacted	Home Cultivation	Caregivers	Possession Limits	Dispensaries	Qualifying Conditions	ID Cards?	Recognizes Out-of-State ID Cards?
Alaska	1998, initiative, revised later by the legislature.	Allowed.	Yes. Caregivers can assist only one patient, unless the caregiver is a relative of more than one patient.	One ounce of marijuana, six plants.	Not allowed.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms.* The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Health and Social Services.	No.
Ariz.	2010, initiative.	Allowed in enclosed, locked facility if the patient does not live within 25 miles of a dispensary.	Yes. Caregivers can assist up to five patients. Caregivers cannot be paid for their services, but they may be reimbursed for actual expenses.	Two and one-half ounces of marijuana, 12 plants for those allowed to cultivate.	Yes, Department of Health Services-regulated non-profit dispensaries are allowed. Up to 125 may be registered. Dispensaries were delayed by litigation. DHS is accepting applications from May 14-25, 2012.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's disease, glaucoma, Alzheimer's, severe and chronic pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, or persistent muscle spasms. The Department of Health Services can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Health Services.	Yes, for patients with conditions that qualify under Arizona law. Does not allow out-of-state patients to obtain marijuana from dispensaries.

* = Some or all of this state's listed illnesses must be resistant to other treatments.

Last updated: May 10, 2012.

NOTE: This grid is not intended for or offered for legal advice. It is for informational and educational purposes only. It also does not capture nuances of the laws, many of which are a dozen or more pages. Please consult with an attorney licensed to practice in the state in question for legal advice.

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Calif.	1996, initiative, added to later by the legislature.	Allowed.	Yes. Caregivers must have “consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of [the] patient.”	At least eight ounces and six mature plants, or 12 immature plants. Counties can allow more and a defense can be raised for more.	Collectives and cooperatives are allowed. There is no state licensing, but some localities issue licenses and regulations. They pay the state sales tax and some cities have specific taxes.	“Cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine, or any other illness for which marijuana provides relief.”	Yes, optional. Issued by the Department of Public Health.	No.
Colo.	2000, amendment to state constitution approved by voters, legislation enacted later.	Allowed.	Yes. A caregiver must have “significant responsibility for managing the well-being of the patient.” Generally, a caregiver cannot assist more than five patients.	Two ounces of marijuana, six plants.	Yes. About 800 dispensaries — or “medical marijuana centers” — are regulated and registered both locally and by the state department of revenue. Medical marijuana is subject to sales tax, with an exemption for indigent patients.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, severe pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes. Issued by the Department of Public Health and Environment.	No.
Del.	2011, legislation.	Not allowed.	Yes. Caregivers can assist up to five patients.	Up to six ounces at one time.	Yes, three compassion centers (dispensaries) were scheduled to be registered by Jan. 1, 2013, but Gov. Markell has stalled that portion of Delaware’s law following a letter from the U.S. attorney.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, decompensated cirrhosis, ALS, Alzheimer’s, PTSD, debilitating pain that has not responded to other treatments or if they produced serious side effects, intractable nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can add conditions.	Yes. Issued by the Department of Health and Social Services. Cards should be issued beginning in fall 2012.	Yes, for patients with conditions that qualify under Delaware law. Patients can only obtain marijuana with a Delaware ID card.

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D.C.	1998, initiative, later revised by D.C. Council. Due to intervention by Congress, the law did not go into effect until July 2010.	Not presently allowed, but a committee will recommend whether to allow it by January 1, 2012.	Yes. Caregivers can assist only one patient.	Up to two ounces in a 30-day period, obtained from a registered dispensary. The mayor can increase this to four ounces.	Yes, the health department selected six cultivation facilities in March 2012 and announced preliminary approval for four dispensaries in April. Dispensaries will pay sales tax and have a sliding scale of prices for low-income patients.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, severe and persistent muscle spasms, and conditions treated with chemotherapy, AZT, protease inhibitors, or radiotherapy. The mayor can approve additional conditions.	Yes, issued by the Department of Health. Not yet accepting applications.	No.
Hawaii	2000, legislation.	Allowed.	Yes. Caregivers can assist only one patient.	A patient and caregiver can collectively possess three ounces and cultivate three mature plants and four immature plants.	Not allowed.	Severe pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, or severe and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the state Department of Public Safety.	No.

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Md. (partial law)	2011, legislation, which improved upon even more limited law from 2003.	No.	No.	One ounce.	No.	Cachexia, severe or chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures, severe and persistent spasms, or any other condition that is severe and resistant to conventional medicine.	No. This law is an affirmative defense and sentencing mitigation only.	No.
Mich.	2008, initiative.	Allowed in enclosed, locked location.	Yes. Caregivers can assist up to five patients at a time.	2.5 ounces. The patient or caregiver can grow up to 12 plants for a patient.	Not provided for in the state law, though some cities have local ordinances.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's disease, nail patella, glaucoma, Alzheimer's, severe and chronic pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, or severe and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.	Yes.
Mont.	2004, initiative, restricted by legislature in 2011. A referendum campaign has been launched against the new law.	Allowed.	Yes. Under the 2004 law, caregivers could assist an unlimited number. Under the new law, caregivers can assist only three and cannot be compensated. However, that part of the law has been enjoined.	Four mature plants, 12 seedlings, and one ounce (under the revised law).	Not explicitly allowed, but caregivers could assist an unlimited number of patients until July 1, 2011, resulting in storefront operations. However, the three patient cap part of the new law is currently enjoined.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, cachexia, intractable nausea or vomiting, seizure disorder, MS, Crohn's, painful peripheral neuropathy, admittance to hospice care, or in some cases, severe pain or spasms. Also, patient cards issued for other conditions prior to July 1, 2011 are valid until they expire.	Yes, through the Department of Health and Human Services.	No. The state had reciprocity prior to the 2011 amendment to the law.

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Nev.	1998 and 2000, amendment to state constitution approved by voters, legislation followed.	Allowed.	Yes. Caregivers must have significant responsibility for managing a qualifying patient's well-being. Marijuana cannot be delivered for compensation.	One ounce, three mature plants, four immature plants.	Not allowed.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, severe pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, or persistent muscle spasms. The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Health and Human Services.	No.
N.J.	2010, legislation.	Not allowed.	Yes. Caregivers can assist only one patient.	No more than two ounces can be dispensed to a patient in 30 days.	Yes. In March 2011, six state-regulated "alternative treatment centers" were registered. One was approved to cultivate -- but not sell -- in April 2012; the others have not yet gotten final approval.	ALS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, terminal illness, seizure disorders, intractable skeletal muscular spasticity, and glaucoma.* The health department may approve additional conditions.	Yes, they will be through the Department of Health and Senior Services, but as of late February 2012, they are not yet accepting applications.	No.
N.M.	2007, legislation.	Allowed with special permit and possible inspection.	Yes. Caregivers can assist up to four patients at a time, but they cannot cultivate.	Six ounces. Patients with cultivation licenses are also allowed to cultivate four mature plants and 12 seedlings.	Yes. As of May 2012, there are 23 "licensed producers" that can grow only 150 plants and seedlings. The state health department regulates the licensed producers.	Severe chronic pain, peripheral neuropathy, intractable nausea/vomiting, cachexia, Hepatitis C, Crohn's disease, PTSD, ALS, cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord damage with spasticity, epilepsy, and HIV/AIDS. The health department can approve additional conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Health.	No.

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Ore.	1998, initiative, revised later by legislature.	Allowed at registered grow sites. No one can produce marijuana for more than four people at a time.	Yes. A caregiver must have "significant responsibility for managing the well-being" of the patient.	24 ounces of marijuana, six mature plants, and 18 immature plants.	Not allowed.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, Alzheimer's, cachexia, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can approve additional medical conditions.	Yes, through the Department of Human Services.	No.
R.I.	2006, legislation, revised later by legislature.	Allowed in enclosed, locked facility.	Yes. Patients are allowed up to two caregivers (dispensaries are considered caregivers). Caregivers can assist up to five patients.	2.5 ounces, 12 plants, and 12 seedlings. Caregivers can possess that much per patient, with a 24 plant, five-ounce cap. The cap does not apply to dispensaries.	Yes. The health department approved three dispensaries, called "compassion centers," but Gov. Chafee put final registration on hold.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, glaucoma, Alzheimer's, severe, debilitating pain, cachexia, severe nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms. The health department can add conditions.	Yes, through the state Department of Health.	Yes.
Vt.	2004, legislation, revised later by legislature.	Allowed in enclosed, locked facility.	Yes. Caregivers can assist only one patient.	Two ounces of marijuana, two mature plants, and seven immature plants.	Yes, four non-profit dispensaries will be allowed pursuant to a law enacted in May 2011.	Cancer, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, severe pain, cachexia, severe nausea, or seizures.*	Yes, through the Department of Public Safety.	No.

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Wash.	1998, initiative, revised later by legislature.	Allowed.	Yes. Caregivers can only assist one patient at a time. Caregivers must wait 15 days between serving two different patients.	24 ounces of marijuana and 15 plants, with a defense for more. Patients can collectively grow, with no more than 10 patients, 72 ounces, and 45 plants.	Not allowed.	Cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, seizure and spasm disorders, intractable pain, glaucoma, Crohn's disease, Hepatitis C, and diseases causing nausea, vomiting, or appetite loss.	No. Note: This law does not include protection from arrest or prosecution. It has an affirmative defense that prevents conviction.	No.