



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1255

Introduced by: **Representative Goodwin**

1 **An Act to require that the Department of Health accept the medical records of a**  
 2 **veteran applying for a medical cannabis registry identification card.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 34-20G-29 be AMENDED:**

5 **34-20G-29.** ~~The~~Except as provided in section 2 of this Act, the department shall  
 6 issue a registry identification card to a qualifying patient who submits the following, in  
 7 accordance with rules promulgated by the department:

- 8 (1) A written certification issued by a practitioner within ninety days immediately  
 9 preceding the date of an application;
- 10 (2) The application fee or renewal fee;
- 11 (3) The name, address, and date of birth of the qualifying patient, except that if the  
 12 applicant is homeless, no address is required;
- 13 (4) The name, address, and telephone number of the qualifying patient's practitioner;
- 14 (5) The name, address, and date of birth of the designated caregiver, or designated  
 15 caregivers, chosen by the qualifying patient;
- 16 (6) If more than one designated caregiver is designated at any given time,  
 17 documentation demonstrating that ~~a greater number of designated caregivers are~~  
 18 more than one caregiver is needed due to the qualifying patient's age or medical  
 19 condition;
- 20 (7) The name of no more than two dispensaries that the qualifying patient designates,  
 21 if any; and
- 22 (8) If the qualifying patient ~~designates~~ names a designated caregiver, ~~a designation~~  
 23 an indication as to whether the qualifying patient or designated caregiver ~~will be~~  
 24 allowed under state is allowed by law to possess and cultivate cannabis plants for  
 25 the qualifying patient's medical use.

1           When a practitioner conducts a follow-up assessment with a patient, within sixty  
2 days of issuing the patient a written certification, and the purpose of the follow-up  
3 assessment is to assess the patient's response to the use of medical cannabis and to  
4 determine whether to issue the patient a second written certification, the fee required  
5 under subdivision (2) is waived, if the patient reapplies for the second registry  
6 identification card. A patient may only receive one fee waiver under this section per  
7 calendar year.

8 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-20G:**

9           Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department shall issue a registry  
10 identification card to a qualifying patient who:

11 (1) Is a veteran; and

12 (2) In accordance with rules promulgated by the department, submits:

13 (a) The portion of the qualifying patient's medical records from the United  
14 States Department of Veterans Affairs, current within three years of the  
15 date the application is submitted, which indicates that the qualifying patient  
16 is diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition;

17 (b) Documentation certifying that the qualifying patient was discharged or  
18 released from military service under conditions other than dishonorable;

19 (c) The application fee or renewal fee;

20 (d) The name, address, and date of birth of the qualifying patient, except that  
21 if the applicant is homeless, no address is required;

22 (e) The name, address, and telephone number of the qualifying patient's  
23 preferred Department of Veterans Affairs health facility;

24 (f) If applicable, the name, address, and date of birth of the designated  
25 caregiver, or designated caregivers, chosen by the qualifying patient;

26 (g) If more than one designated caregiver is designated at any given time,  
27 documentation demonstrating that more than one designated caregiver is  
28 needed due to the qualifying patient's age or medical condition;

29 (h) The name of no more than two dispensaries that the qualifying patient  
30 designates, if any; and

31 (i) If the qualifying patient names a designated caregiver, an indication as to  
32 whether the qualifying patient or designated caregiver is allowed by law to  
33 possess and cultivate cannabis plants for the qualifying patient's medical  
34 use.

1           A registry identification card issued under this section expires one year after the  
2 date of issuance and may be renewed.

3           For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an individual who served in the  
4 active military, naval, air, or space service of the armed forces of the United States, and  
5 who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.