

1 AN ACT relating to the creation of the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research and  
2 making an appropriation therefor.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO  
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) The Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research is hereby established at the*  
7 *University of Kentucky to advance the study of the use of cannabis and cannabis*  
8 *derivatives for the treatment of certain medical conditions and diseases as*  
9 *indicated and recommended by the center's advisory board.*

10 *(2) The role and mission of the center shall be to:*

11 *(a) Conduct and fund research related to cannabis and cannabis derivatives,*  
12 *including pharmaceutical development and the efficacies of cannabis and*  
13 *cannabis derivatives for the treatment of certain medical conditions and*  
14 *diseases;*

15 *(b) Conduct and fund research related to the health effects, including the*  
16 *potential risks or side effects, of the use of cannabis and cannabis*  
17 *derivatives;*

18 *(c) Conduct and fund research related to the efficacy and potential health*  
19 *effects of various cannabis delivery methods, including but not limited to*  
20 *vaporizing, ingestibles, topical applications, and combustion;*

21 *(d) Review current and future cannabis research literature, clinical studies,*  
22 *and clinical trials;*

23 *(e) Monitor, to the extent that appropriate and sufficient data are available,*  
24 *patient outcomes in states with medicinal cannabis programs; and*

25 *(f) Examine, to the extent that sufficient data are available, the health effects*  
26 *of the use of combustible cannabis.*

27 *(3) The university shall:*

1 (a) Develop and maintain the center in accordance with its administrative and  
 2 governing regulations related to the formation of multidisciplinary research  
 3 centers and institutes;

4 (b) Establish an internal advisory board to oversee the activities, research  
 5 agenda, and finances of the center. Members of the advisory board shall be  
 6 appointed by the president of the University of Kentucky and may include:

7 1. The director of the University of Kentucky Center for Cannabis  
 8 Research;

9 2. The director of the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and  
 10 Alcohol Research;

11 3. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food  
 12 and Environment or his or her designee;

13 4. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy or his or  
 14 her designee;

15 5. The dean of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine or his or  
 16 her designee;

17 6. Physicians who are licensed by the Kentucky Board of Medical  
 18 Licensure and who are certified by the appropriate board in the  
 19 following specialties:

20 a. Oncology;

21 b. Pain and addiction medicine;

22 c. Neurology;

23 d. Psychiatry; and

24 e. Ophthalmology;

25 7. Researchers from a college or university that currently conducts  
 26 cannabis research or that receives funds from the center pursuant to  
 27 subsection (5) of this section, if any; and

1           8. Any other individual appointed at the discretion of the president of the  
 2                           University of Kentucky;

3           (c) Report to the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and  
 4                           the Legislative Research Commission by September 1 each year for the  
 5                           preceding fiscal year, outlining the center's activities and expenditures; and

6           (d) Ensure that the center complies with subsection (4) of this section.

7           (4) The center shall:

8           (a) Employ a director and necessary staff;

9           (b) Seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public  
 10                           sources to support the role and mission of the center;

11           (c) Conduct clinical research, clinical studies, and clinical trials as approved by  
 12                           appropriate federal agencies;

13           (d) Establish an application for individuals interested in participating in  
 14                           cannabis-related clinical research, clinical studies, or clinical trials and a  
 15                           screening protocol to place interested applicants in appropriate research  
 16                           participant pools;

17           (e) Publicly disseminate the research conducted or funded by the center;

18           (f) Host an annual cannabis research symposium; and

19           (g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and upon request  
 20                           from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, enter into a  
 21                           memorandum of understanding with the cabinet for data collected by the  
 22                           center or any researcher associated with or funded by the center.

23           (5) (a) The center may award research funds to any nonprofit Kentucky-based  
 24                           research entity or any Kentucky institution of higher education and any  
 25                           research entity association with such an institution.

26           (b) If the center awards research funds to any other entity, the center shall use  
 27                           an open, competitive grant application process using national best practices.

1 (c) Any entity or institution that receives research funds from the center shall  
 2 present the results of its research at the center's annual research  
 3 symposium in the year after the research is concluded and shall, upon  
 4 request from the center, present an update on any ongoing research at the  
 5 center's annual research symposium if the research has not concluded.

6 (6) The application developed pursuant to subsection (4)(d) of this section shall be  
 7 made publicly available on the center's Web site.

8 (7) The university, the center, and any researcher or staff employed by, associated  
 9 with, or funded by the center or the university shall immediately notify the  
 10 Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Legislative Research  
 11 Commission of any imminent or serious public health risk, or potentially  
 12 imminent or serious public health risk, associated with cannabis identified as  
 13 part of a research project associated with or approved by the center or the  
 14 university's internal review board.

15 (8) If at any time the Commonwealth establishes a medicinal cannabis program, the  
 16 application to receive a medicinal cannabis card shall include a question asking  
 17 whether the patient is interested in participating in clinical research conducted by  
 18 the center. If the patient indicates his or her interest in participating in the  
 19 center's research, the department or state agency responsible for approving  
 20 medicinal cannabis cards is authorized to share the patient's name, phone  
 21 number, and address with the center.

22 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys from the General  
 23 Fund Surplus Account (KRS 48.700) or the Budget Reserve Trust Fund account (KRS  
 24 48.705) in the amount of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 to the University of  
 25 Kentucky for the creation and operation of the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research,  
 26 including expenses related to conducting clinical research and participant recruitment.  
 27 The appropriation shall be reduced by any gifts, donations, endowments, or other

1 contributions, not including grants or other funds designated for the purpose of  
2 conducting research, received by the University of Kentucky for the purpose of creating  
3 or operating the center. Appropriations to the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research in  
4 this Act shall be considered a mandated program and shall be excluded from the public  
5 postsecondary comprehensive funding model.

6       ➔Section 3. The University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Center for Cannabis  
7 Research shall, within 120 days after the effective date of this Act, prepare and submit an  
8 application to the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, pursuant to 21 C.F.R. pt. 1318, for  
9 registration as a marijuana grower.