OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7135

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF WRITTEN CERTIFICATIONS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND IDENTIFYING VETERANS WHO HAVE PRESCRIPTIONS THEREFOR.

SUMMARY

This bill extends, from one year to 13 months, the maximum length of time for which an initial medical certification for medical marijuana patients may be valid. By law, before a patient may buy medical marijuana from a dispensary, he or she must receive a medical certification and a Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) registration certificate, which is valid for the length of the medical certification. By law and under the bill, subsequent medical certifications are valid for up to one year.

The bill also requires DCP to give qualifying medical marijuana patients an opportunity to provide identifying information that they are veterans when registering. Under the bill, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged or released from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force, and any reserve component of these branches, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of the U.S. Code (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Medical Marijuana

Subject to various requirements and conditions, the law allows medical marijuana use by qualifying patients to treat certain debilitating medical conditions such as cancer, glaucoma, HIV, and AIDS (CGS § 21a-408(3)). By law, a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse may certify a qualifying patient's use of marijuana
only after determining the patient has a debilitating condition and the potential benefits of medical marijuana would likely outweigh its health risks (CGS § 21a-408c).

COMMITTEE ACTION
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 16  Nay 0  (03/12/2019)