

[California Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act?](#)

During 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that established California's first regulatory framework for the medical cannabis industry. For the last two decades since [Proposition 215](#) was established in 1996, most marijuana regulation was left up to the locality and the state did not really regulate medical cannabis. This has changed.

The Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act requires all commercial medical cannabis activity to obtain both a state license and local approval through a local license, permit, or other type of local authorization. All businesses must have local approval before applying for state licensure.

The Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act further establishes three licensing authorities to issue licenses.

- The Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation is under the Department of Consumer Affairs and works with dispensaries, distributors, transporters, and testing.
- The Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program is under the Department of Food and Agriculture and provides licenses for cultivators.
- The Office of Medical Cannabis Testing is under the Department of Public Health and provides licenses for manufacturing.

Qualified patients, as well as caregivers with five or fewer medical cannabis patients, are not required to obtain a license for possession, processing, cultivation, or transporting medical marijuana that is exclusively used for the patient's personal use.