

# Georgia Medical Cannabis Society 2024 Georgia Cannabis and Hemp Legislation Report "Patients Over Profits"

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## Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the proposed legislation concerning cannabis and hemp in Georgia for the year 2024. Compiled by the Georgia Medical Cannabis Society, this document aims to inform stakeholders, members, and interested parties of the legislative landscape as it stands on February 18, 2024.

## Legislation Overview

### HB 985 - Abolition of the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation

- Objective: Proposes the dissolution of the Corporation, which could affect financial assistance for students in agriculture and hemp studies.
- Implications: Potential reduction in funding for students pursuing cannabis research and cultivation education.

**[Update] Passed the house on 2/1/24 and as of 2/22/24 Senate Committee Favorably Reported**

### HB 1056 - Enhanced Penalties for Controlled Substances Violations

- Objective: Introduces stricter penalties for certain individuals involved with controlled substances.
- Implications: Increases the severity of legal repercussions for cannabis industry violations.

**[Update] Second read was 1/31/24- no further movement**

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## **HB 1127 - Department of Agriculture's Enforcement Authority**

- Objective: Grants the Department authority to enforce criminal laws within agricultural sectors.
- Implications: Enhances regulatory oversight in the hemp and cannabis industries.

**[Update] 2/21/24 House Committee Favorably Reported**

## **SB 350 - Prohibition on Sale of Consumable Hemp Products to Under 21**

- Objective: Aims to restrict the sale of hemp products to individuals under the age of 21.
- Implications: Aligns hemp product sale age restrictions with those of alcohol and tobacco.

**[Update] 1/11/24 Senate Read and Referred**

## **SB 437 - Department of Agriculture's Enforcement Authority**

- Objective & Implications: Duplicate of HB 1127, reinforcing the Department of Agriculture's enforcement capabilities.

**[Update] 2/1/24 Senate Read and Referred**

## **SB 448 - Revision of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated**

- Objective: Proposes a comprehensive update to the statutory portion of the Georgia Code.
- Implications: Potential modernization of laws affecting the hemp and cannabis sectors.

**[Update] 2/13/24 Senate Read and Referred**

## **SR 354 - Senate Study Committee on the Effects of Cannabis Use**

- Objective: Establishes a committee to investigate cannabis use effects.

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- Implications: Insights could influence future cannabis policies and public health guidelines.

**[Update] 1/8/24 Senate Recommitted**

**HB 1286 - Georgia Hemp Farming Act**

- Objective: Regulates the cultivation, production, and sale of hemp products.
- Implications: Promotes industry growth through clear regulatory standards.

**[Update] 2/22/24 House Committee Favorably Reported**

**HB 853 - Repeal of the Drug-free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990**

- Objective: Suggests repealing drug-free requirements in higher education settings.
- Implications: May alter campus policies on drug use and disciplinary actions.

**[Update] 2/12/24 House Second Readers**

**SB 485 - Trial upon Accusation for Certain Offenses**

- Objective: Allows charging certain offenses by district attorney accusation.
- Implications: Could streamline legal proceedings for specific cannabis-related offenses.

**[Update] 2/22/23 House Second Readers**

**SB 494 - Georgia Hemp Farming Act (Regulation of Hemp Products)**

- Objective: Focuses on the regulation of hemp products, similar to HB 1286.
- Implications: Ensures consumer safety and adherence to industry standards.

**[Update] 2/23/23 House Second Readers**

## **SB 495 - Low THC Oil Patient Registry Validity Terms**

- Objective: Specifies the validity terms for Low THC Oil Patient Registry cards.
- Implications: Affects medical cannabis patients, potentially streamlining access to treatments.

**[Update] 2/23/24 House Second Readers**

## **HB 797 - Revision of the Low THC Oil Patient Registry Provisions**

- Objective: Proposes updates to the provisions of the Low THC Oil Patient Registry.
- Implications: Aims to improve patient access to low THC oil, streamline the registration process, and refine regulatory oversight.

**[Update] 3/23/23 House Second Readers**

## **HB 1322 - Georgia Hemp Farming Act; Regulate Consumable Hemp Products**

- Objective: Specifies regulation for consumable hemp products under the Georgia Hemp Farming Act.
- Implications: Sets clear guidelines for the safety, quality, and integrity of consumable hemp products, ensuring consumer protection and industry standardization.
- [Update] Awaiting further updates.

## **Conclusion**

The Georgia Medical Cannabis Society remains committed to advocating for policies that prioritize patient needs and safety in the evolving landscape of cannabis and hemp

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legislation. As of February 25, 2024, the outlined bills represent critical steps toward a regulated, safe, and thriving cannabis industry in Georgia. Stakeholders are encouraged to engage with these legislative efforts to ensure the continued growth and development of cannabis and hemp sectors with a focus on "Patients over profits."