



**Bill Title:** Concerning the sale of marijuana to regulated cooperatives.

**Bill Number:** HB 2520

**Effective Date:** 7/1/2016

**Amends:** RCW 69.50.325 and 69.51A.250

**Summary:**

Senate bill 5052 created medical marijuana cooperatives allowing up to four patients to grow medicinal marijuana for their own use. However, the bill did not provide a legal pathway for these cooperatives to acquire their plants. Present law does not allow for the retail sale of plants directly to consumers. Patients who attempt to register a cooperative with the WSLCB and begin growing in July 2016 will potentially be forced to seek out and purchase their plants from the illicit market.

This law provides a legal pathway for access to the starter plants registered patients and cooperatives will need beginning in July 2016, by allowing licensed producers to sell directly to patients belonging to registered cooperatives, providing for a safer, and more secure system. Licensed marijuana producers are authorized to produce marijuana plants for sale to registered medical marijuana cooperatives. All plants grown by a medical marijuana cooperative must either be purchased from a licensed marijuana producer or cloned from a plant purchased from a licensed producer.

**In order to qualify for the ability to purchase plants directly from licensed marijuana producers, medical marijuana patients who wish to form a registered cooperative must follow a series of steps, including the following:**

- Starting July 1, 2016, medical marijuana patients with a valid authorization form can join the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database.
- First, an individual first receiving a medical marijuana authorization form from their health care provider. Info can be found [here](#).
- Take your authorization form to any [licensed and medically endorsed retail marijuana store](#).
- Ask to see the [Medical Marijuana Consultant](#) on staff who is trained in working with medical patients.
- Give the consultant your authorization form so that he or she can enter your information into the database, take your picture, and create a new Medical Marijuana Recognition Card.
- Then, up to four patients may join together to form a cooperative, which must be registered with the WSLCB. An overview and FAQ can also be found here at the [WSLCB's Medical Marijuana Website](#). Registered cooperatives may not grow more than 60 plants.

The cooperative registration application is available on the WSLCB website at: [www.lcb.wa.gov](http://www.lcb.wa.gov).

**When the WSLCB Licensing Division receives the application:**

- A Customer Service Specialist will be assigned to the application.
- The Customer Service Specialist will send the applicant an approval letter if the cooperative meets the requirements.

Once a cooperative is registered under the steps listed above, members of the registered cooperative may purchase plants/clones directly from a licensed producer under the parameters provided by the WSLCB. An interim policy will provide purchasing requirements, such as what information the registered

cooperative member will need to provide to purchase plants/clones, until permanent rules regarding cooperatives purchasing from producers become effective.

**Contact Information:**

For specific questions, please contact Customer Service at 360-664-1600 or <http://www.lcb.wa.gov/>.