1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA 2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024) COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 3 SENATE BILL NO. 1939 4 By: Paxton 5 6 7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE An Act relating to medical marijuana; amending 63 8 O.S. 2021, Section 427.14, as last amended by Section 9 7, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 2023 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 427.14), which relates to medical marijuana business license; prohibiting individuals from having 10 multiple licenses with exception of certain businesses; setting fee for expired medical marijuana 11 business licenses; specifying time frame for renewal of medical marijuana business licenses; prohibiting 12 possession, sale, or transfer of medical marijuana following expiration of license; prescribing penalty 13 for violation; updating statutory language; requiring written approval for transfer; permitting certain 14 approval under certain circumstances; requiring documentation to be submitted; prohibiting denial of 15 application under certain circumstances; requiring certain inventory to be taken prior to approval; 16 prohibiting transfer without approval; providing for promulgation of rules; denying licensure under 17 certain circumstances; prescribing fee; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; 18 and providing an effective date. 19 20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 427.14, as 22 last amended by Section 7, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 2023 (63 O.S. Supp. 23 2023, Section 427.14), is amended to read as follows: 24

Section 427.14. A. There is hereby created the medical marijuana business license, which shall include the following categories:

- 1. Medical marijuana commercial grower;
- 2. Medical marijuana processor;

- 3. Medical marijuana dispensary;
- 4. Medical marijuana transporter; and
- 5. Medical marijuana testing laboratory.
- B. The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, with the aid of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, shall develop a website for medical marijuana business applications.
- C. The Authority shall make available on its website in an easy-to-find location, applications for a medical marijuana business.
 - D. 1. The annual, nonrefundable fee for a medical marijuana transporter license shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).
 - 2. The initial, nonrefundable fee for a medical marijuana commercial grower license shall be calculated based upon the total amount of square feet of canopy or acres the grower estimates will be harvested, transferred, or sold for the year. The annual, nonrefundable license fee shall be based upon the total amount of square feet of canopy or acres harvested, transferred, or sold by

- a. For an indoor, greenhouse, or light deprivation medical marijuana grow facility:
 - (1) Tier 1: Up to ten thousand (10,000) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00),
 - (2) Tier 2: Ten thousand one (10,001) square feet of canopy to twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00),
 - (3) Tier 3: Twenty thousand one (20,001) square feet of canopy to forty thousand (40,000) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
 - (4) Tier 4: Forty thousand one (40,001) square feet of canopy to sixty thousand (60,000) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00),
 - (5) Tier 5: Sixty thousand one (60,001) square feet of canopy to eighty thousand (80,000) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00),

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- (6) Tier 6: Eighty thousand one (80,001) square feet of canopy to ninety-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (99,999) square feet of canopy, the fee shall be Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00), and
- (7) Tier 7: One hundred thousand (100,000) square feet of canopy and beyond, the fee shall be Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus an additional twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per square foot of canopy over one hundred thousand (100,000) square feet.
- b. For an outdoor medical marijuana grow facility:
 - (1) Tier 1: Less than two and one-half (2 1/2) acres, the fee shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00),
 - (2) Tier 2: More than two and one-half (2 1/2) acres up to five (5) acres, the fee shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00),
 - (3) Tier 3: More than five (5) acres up to ten (10) acres, the fee shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
 - (4) Tier 4: More than ten (10) acres up to twenty (20) acres, the fee shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00),

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- (5) Tier 5: More than twenty (20) acres up to thirty (30) acres, the fee shall be Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00),
- (6) Tier 6: More than thirty (30) acres up to forty (40) acres, the fee shall be Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00),
- (7) Tier 7: More than forty (40) acres up to fifty (50) acres, the fee shall be Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), and
- (8) Tier 8: If the amount of acreage exceeds fifty (50) acres, the fee shall be Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) plus an additional Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per acre.
- c. For a medical marijuana commercial grower that has a combination of both indoor and outdoor growing facilities at one location, the medical marijuana commercial grower shall be required to obtain a separate license from the Authority for each type of grow operation and shall be subject to the licensing fees provided for in subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph.
- d. As used in this paragraph:
 - (1) "canopy" means the total surface area within a cultivation area that is dedicated to the

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cultivation of flowering marijuana plants. surface area of the plant canopy must be calculated in square feet and measured and must include all of the area within the boundaries where the cultivation of the flowering marijuana plants occurs. If the surface of the plant canopy consists of noncontiguous areas, each component area must be separated by identifiable boundaries. If a tiered or shelving system is used in the cultivation area, the surface area of each tier or shelf must be included in calculating the area of the plant canopy. Calculation of the area of the plant canopy may not include the areas within the cultivation area that are used to cultivate immature marijuana plants and seedlings, prior to flowering, and that are not used at any time to cultivate mature marijuana plants. If the flowering plants are vertically grown in cylinders, the square footage of the canopy shall be measured by the circumference of the cylinder multiplied by the total length of the cylinder,

(2) "greenhouse" means a structure located outdoors that is completely covered by a material that

allows a controlled level of light transmission,
and

- (3) "light deprivation" means a structure that has concrete floors and the ability to manipulate natural light.
- 3. The initial, nonrefundable fee for a medical marijuana processor license shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00). The annual, nonrefundable license fee for a medical marijuana processor license shall be determined based on the previous twelve (12) months as follows:
 - a. Tier 1: The transfer or sale of zero (0) to ten thousand (10,000) pounds of biomass or the production, transfer, or sale of up to one hundred (100) liters of cannabis concentrate, whichever is greater, the annual fee shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00),
 - b. Tier 2: The transfer or sale of ten thousand one (10,001) pounds to fifty thousand (50,000) pounds of biomass or the production, transfer, or sale of one hundred one (101) to three hundred fifty (350) liters of cannabis concentrate, whichever is greater, the annual fee shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00),
 - c. Tier 3: The transfer or sale of fifty thousand one (50,001) pounds to one hundred fifty thousand

1 (150,000) pounds of biomass or the production, transfer, or sale of three hundred fifty-one (351) to 2 six hundred fifty (650) liters of cannabis 3 concentrate, whichever is greater, the annual fee 4 5 shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), d. Tier 4: The transfer or sale of one hundred fifty 6 7 thousand (300,000) pounds of biomass or the 8 9

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- thousand one (150,001) pounds to three hundred production, transfer, or sale of six hundred fifty-one (651) to one thousand (1,000) liters of cannabis concentrate, whichever is greater, the annual fee shall be Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), and
- Tier 5: The transfer or sale of more than three е. hundred thousand one (300,001) pounds of biomass or the production, transfer, or sale in excess of one thousand one (1,001) liters of cannabis concentrate, the annual fee shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

For purposes of this paragraph only, if the cannabis concentrate is in nonliquid form, every one thousand (1,000) grams of concentrated marijuana shall be calculated as one (1) liter of cannabis concentrate.

4. The initial, nonrefundable fee for a medical marijuana dispensary license shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars

- (\$2,500.00). The annual, nonrefundable license fee for a medical marijuana dispensary license shall be calculated at ten percent (10%) of the sum of twelve (12) calendar months of the combined annual state sales tax and state excise tax of the dispensary during the previous twelve (12) months. The minimum fee shall be not less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) and the maximum fee shall not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).
 - 5. The annual, nonrefundable license fee for a medical marijuana testing laboratory shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

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- E. All applicants seeking licensure or licensure renewal as a medical marijuana business shall comply with the following general requirements:
 - 1. All applications for licenses and registrations authorized pursuant to this section shall be made upon forms prescribed by the Authority;
 - 2. Each application shall identify the city or county in which the applicant seeks to obtain licensure as a medical marijuana business;
 - 3. Applicants shall submit a complete application to the Authority before the application may be accepted or considered;
- 4. All applications shall be complete and accurate in every detail;

5. All applications shall include all attachments or supplemental information required by the forms supplied by the Authority;

- 6. All applications for a transporter license, initial dispensary license, initial processor license, or laboratory license shall be accompanied by a full remittance for the whole amount of the license fee as set forth in subsection D of this section. All submissions of grower applications, renewal processor applications, and renewal dispensary applications shall be accompanied by a remittance of a fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00). The Authority shall invoice license applicants, if applicable, for any additional licensing fees owed pursuant to subsection D of this section prior to approval of a license application. License fees are nonrefundable;
- 7. All applicants shall be approved for licensing review that, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - a. twenty-five (25) years of age or older,
 - b. if applying as an individual, proof that the applicant is an Oklahoma resident pursuant to paragraph 11 of this subsection,
 - c. if applying as an entity, proof that seventy-five percent (75%) of all members, managers, executive officers, partners, board members or any other form of

business ownership are Oklahoma residents pursuant to
paragraph 11 of this subsection,

- d. if applying as an individual or entity, proof that the individual or entity is registered to conduct business in this state,
- e. disclosure of all ownership interests pursuant to the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act, and
- f. proof that the medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility and medical marijuana waste disposal facility applicant or licensee has not been convicted of a nonviolent felony in the last two (2) years, or any other felony conviction within the last five (5) years, is not a current inmate in the custody of the Department of Corrections, or currently incarcerated in a jail or corrections facility.

Upon reasonable suspicion that a medical marijuana business licensee is illegally growing, processing, transferring, selling, disposing, or diverting marijuana, the Authority, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), or the Attorney General may subpoena documents necessary to establish the personal identifying information of all owners and individuals with any ownership interest in the business;

8. There shall be no limit to the number of medical marijuana business licenses or categories that an individual or entity can apply for or receive, although each application and each category shall require a separate application, application fee, or license fee. A commercial grower, processor and dispensary, or any combination thereof, are authorized to share the same address or physical location, subject to the restrictions set forth in the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act;

- 9. No medical marijuana business premises is permitted to have multiple licenses of the same type pursuant to the licensing requirements of this section, excluding the following:
 - a. a commercial grower with a combination of an indoor or outdoor growing facility on one parcel of land,
 - b. a licensed medical marijuana processor used by multiple licensees, and
 - a licensed medical marijuana business that has an approved application by the Authority while the new business seeks registration from the Oklahoma State

 Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control pursuant to Section 2 of this act;
- 10. All applicants for a medical marijuana business license, research facility license or education facility license authorized by the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act, or for a renewal of such license, shall undergo a national fingerprint-

based background check conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) within thirty (30) days prior to the application for the license, including:

- a. individual applicants applying on their own behalf,
- b. individuals applying on behalf of an entity,
- c. all principal officers of an entity, and
- d. all owners of an entity as defined by the Oklahoma

 Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act;
- 10.11. All applicable fees charged by the OSBI are the responsibility of the applicant and shall not be higher than fees charged to any other person or industry for such background checks;
- 11. 12. In order to be considered an Oklahoma resident for purposes of a medical marijuana business application, all applicants shall provide proof of Oklahoma residency for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the date of application or five (5) years of continuous Oklahoma residency during the preceding twenty-five (25) years immediately preceding the date of application. Sufficient documentation of proof of residency shall include a combination of the following:
 - a. an unexpired Oklahoma-issued driver license,
 - b. an Oklahoma identification card,
 - c. a utility bill preceding the date of application, excluding cellular telephone and Internet bills,

1	d. a residential property deed to property in this state,
2	and
3	e. a rental agreement preceding the date of application
4	for residential property located in this state.
5	Applicants that were issued a medical marijuana business license
6	prior to August 30, 2019, are hereby exempt from the two-year or
7	five-year Oklahoma residence requirement mentioned above;
8	12. 13. All license applicants shall be required to submit a
9	registration with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and
10	Dangerous Drugs Control as provided in Sections 2-302 through 2-304
11	of this title;
12	$\frac{13.}{14.}$ All applicants shall establish their identity through
13	submission of a color copy or digital image of one of the following
14	unexpired documents:
15	a. front of an Oklahoma driver license,
16	b. front of an Oklahoma identification card,
17	c. a United States passport or other photo identification
18	issued by the United States government, or
19	d. a tribal identification card approved for
20	identification purposes by the Department of Public
21	Safety; and
22	14. 15. All applicants shall submit an applicant photograph;
23	and

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16. All applicants for a medical marijuana business license seeking to operate a commercial growing operation shall file along with their application a bond as prescribed by Section 427.26 of this title.

- F. The Authority shall review the medical marijuana business application; approve, reject, or deny the application; and send the approval, rejection, denial, or status-update letter to the applicant in the same method the application was submitted to the Authority within ninety (90) business days of receipt of the application.
- G. 1. The Authority shall review the medical marijuana business applications, conduct all investigations, inspections, and interviews, and collect all license and application fees before approving the application.
- 2. Approved applicants shall be issued a medical marijuana business license for the specific category applied under, which shall act as proof of their approved status. Rejection and denial letters shall provide a reason for the rejection or denial.

 Applications may only be rejected or denied based on the applicant not meeting the standards set forth in the provisions of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act and Sections 420 through 426.1 of this title, improper completion of the application, unpaid license or application fees, or for a reason provided for in the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient

- Protection Act and Sections 420 through 426.1 of this title. If an application is rejected for failure to provide required information, the applicant shall have thirty (30) days to submit the required information for reconsideration. Unless the Authority determines otherwise, an application that has been resubmitted but is still incomplete or contains errors that are not clerical or typographical in nature shall be denied.
 - 3. Status-update letters shall provide a reason for delay in either approval, rejection or denial should a situation arise in which an application was submitted properly but a delay in processing the application occurred.

- 4. Approval, rejection, denial or status-update letters shall be sent to the applicant in the same method the application was submitted to the Authority.
- H. A license for a medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility or medical marijuana waste disposal facility shall not be issued to or held by:
 - 1. A person until all required fees have been paid;
- 2. A person who has been convicted of a nonviolent felony
 within two (2) years of the date of application, or within five (5)
 years for any other felony;
 - 3. A corporation, if the criminal history of any of its officers, directors or stockholders indicates that the officer,

director or stockholder has been convicted of a nonviolent felony within two (2) years of the date of application, or within five (5) years for any other felony;

4. A person under twenty-five (25) years of age;

- 5. A person licensed pursuant to this section who, during a period of licensure, or who, at the time of application, has failed to:
 - a. file taxes, interest or penalties due related to a medical marijuana business, or
 - b. pay taxes, interest or penalties due related to a medical marijuana business;
- 6. A sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer or prosecuting officer, or an officer or employee of the Authority or municipality;
- 7. A person whose authority to be a caregiver, as defined in Section 427.2 of this title, has been revoked by the Authority; or
- 8. A person who was involved in the management or operations of any medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility or medical marijuana waste disposal facility that, after the initiation of a disciplinary action, has had a medical marijuana license revoked, not renewed, or surrendered during the five (5) years preceding submission of the application and for the following violations:

a. unlawful sales or purchases,

b. any fraudulent acts, falsification of records or
misrepresentation to the Authority, medical marijuana
patient licensees, caregiver licensees or medical
marijuana business licensees,

- c. any grossly inaccurate or fraudulent reporting,
- d. threatening or harming any medical marijuana patient, caregiver, medical practitioner or employee of the Authority,
- e. knowingly or intentionally refusing to permit the Authority access to premises or records,
- f. using a prohibited, hazardous substance for processing in a residential area,
- g. criminal acts relating to the operation of a medical marijuana business, or
- h. any violations that endanger public health and safety or product safety.
- I. In investigating the qualifications of an applicant or a licensee, the Authority and municipalities may have access to criminal history record information furnished by a criminal justice agency subject to any restrictions imposed by such an agency.
- J. The failure of an applicant or licensee to provide the requested information by the Authority deadline may be grounds for denial of the application.

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K. All applicants and licensees shall submit information to the Authority in a full, faithful, truthful and fair manner. The Authority may recommend denial of an application where the applicant or licensee made misstatements, omissions, misrepresentations or untruths in the application or in connection with the background investigation of the applicant. This type of conduct may be grounds for administrative action against the applicant or licensee. Typos and scrivener errors shall not be grounds for denial.

- L. A licensed medical marijuana business premises shall be subject to and responsible for compliance with applicable provisions consistent with the zoning where such business is located as described in the most recent versions of the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code, the International Building Code and the International Fire Code, unless granted an exemption by a municipality or appropriate code enforcement entity.
- M. All medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility and medical marijuana waste disposal facility licensees shall pay the relevant licensure fees prior to receiving licensure to operate.
- N. A medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility or medical marijuana waste disposal facility that attempts to renew its license after the expiration date of the license shall pay a late renewal fee in an amount to be determined by the Authority to reinstate the license of

Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day that the license is expired. Late renewal fees are nonrefundable. A license that has been expired for more than $\frac{1}{1}$ minety (90) thirty (30) days shall not be renewed. Only license renewal applications submitted at least ninety (90) calendar days prior to the expiration date shall be considered timely submitted and subject to the provisions of subsection F of this section. A medical marijuana business license shall remain unexpired during the pendency of the application for

renewal provided that such application was timely submitted.

- O. No medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility or medical marijuana waste disposal facility shall possess, sell or transfer medical marijuana or medical marijuana products without a valid, unexpired license issued by the Authority Immediately upon expiration of a license, any medical marijuana business, medical marijuana research facility, medical marijuana education facility, or medical marijuana waste disposal facility shall cease all possession, transfer, or sale of medical marijuana or medical marijuana products. Any continued possession, sale, or transfer shall subject the business owners and operators to felony prosecution pursuant to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.
- P. No more than one medical marijuana commercial grower license shall be issued for any one property A medical marijuana business license holder shall require all individuals employed under his or

her license to be issued a credential pursuant to the provisions of Section 427.14b of this title prior to employment.

- Q. The Executive Director of the Authority may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section including, but not limited to, required application materials to be submitted by the applicant and utilized by the Authority to determine medical marijuana business licensing fees pursuant to this section.
- SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 427.14c of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. After the effective date of this act, no medical marijuana business shall be transferred without written approval of an application by the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority.
- B. A licensee intending to transfer ownership of a medical marijuana business shall submit an application to the Authority. Upon approval by the Authority, the applicant shall submit all necessary documentation to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDD) consistent with an application for a registration pursuant to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act and rules promulgated by OBNDD, including the approved application issued by the Authority. The medical marijuana business license and the OBNDD registration of the original owner shall terminate fifteen (15) business days after issuance of the new OBNDD registration.

C. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Authority from denying an application, or the OBNDD from denying an application to register pursuant to the laws and rules of this state. Application or registration denial shall not affect the existing licensee and registrant. The existing licensee and registrant shall be required to submit timely and sufficient renewal applications for the business to continue to operate during the pendency of any business transfer.

- D. Nothing in this section shall authorize any new owner to take possession of medical marijuana, medical marijuana concentrate, or medical marijuana product or exercise control over any activities involving the medical marijuana business unless and until the application has been approved by the Authority and the new ownership is registered with OBNDD.
- E. The new medical marijuana business owner shall provide the Authority with a detailed inventory of any and all items enumerated in the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act including, but not limited to, all seeds, plant tissue, clones, plants, usable medical marijuana or trim, leaves, and other plant matter, batches of extract, medical marijuana, medical marijuana concentrate, and medical marijuana products upon taking control of the business.
- F. Any attempt to transfer a medical marijuana business, medical marijuana, medical marijuana concentrate, or medical

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    marijuana products of a medical marijuana business without approval
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    from the Authority shall be grounds for revocation or nonrenewal of
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    the license and denial, revocation, or nonrenewal of current or
    future licenses or license applications with ownership held by any
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    such person involved in the unlawful transfer.
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            The application fee shall be the annual license or
    application fee established under Section 427.14 of Title 63 of the
 7
    Oklahoma Statutes for medical marijuana business license types.
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        Η.
            The Authority shall promulgate rules necessary for the
    approval and denial of transfers of medical marijuana businesses.
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        SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.
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