Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed H.B. 1 into law on April 16, 2015. H.B. 1 allows Georgians who have a covered condition to obtain a written verification from a physician to possess up to 20 fluid ounces of low-level THC cannabinoid oil – including up to five percent for adults and up to three percent for children.

The conditions that are covered by H.B. 1 include cancer (end-stage or when the treatment produces a related wasting illness and/or recalcitrant nausea and vomiting); seizure disorders that are related to epilepsy or trauma-related head injuries; ALS; multiple sclerosis; Parkinson's disease; sickle cell disease (severe or end-stage); and Crohn's or mitochondrial disease. The decision to allow patients to obtain cannabinoid oil is solely at the discretion of the physician.

The registration process includes three primary steps, including having the patient sign a waiver, having the physician register for and log into the Georgia Department of Public Health’s “Low THC Registry,” and having the physician submit quarterly reports to the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB).

By signing the waiver, the patient or caregiver acknowledges that they understand that “the use of cannabinoids and THC-containing products have not been approved by the FDA and the clinical benefits are unknown and may cause harm.” Physicians should keep the original signed copy of the waiver for their records.

A physician must complete the online registry form in full before their patient can obtain an authorization card. Physicians are encouraged to review the registry form in advance.

The GCMB reports will address recommended dosages, the patient’s compliance and clinical responses, and any side effects or drug interactions.

Once the patient or legal guardian or caregiver receives the Georgia Department of Public Health's permission to possess the low-THC oil, they will receive an authorization card from one of 18 local registrars that will be valid for two years.
Patients and physicians must go through the process and update the registry every two years. Once a physician submits the information to the registry, the patient should receive their authorization cards within 15 business days.

MAG members can contact MAG Legislative Associate Kimberly Ramseur at 678.303.9273 or kramseur@mag.org with questions related to the registry or H.B. 1.

Click for Georgia DPH “Low THC Oil Registry” website

Click for patient waiver