

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 10, 2025

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met virtually on April 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Vaughn at 1:00 P.M.

Mr. James Harwell led the Commission's invocation. The roll was taken with a quorum present. Commission members present for the meeting were Chairman Rex Vaughn, Vice Chairman Sam Blakemore, Dr. William Saliski, Mr. Dwight Gamble, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Loree Skelton, Judge Charles Price, Ms. Taylor Hatchett, Mr. James Harwell, Dr. Jimmie Harvey, and Mr. Dion Robinson. Dr. Mac Barnes was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Vaughn presented the minutes from the February 13, 2025, Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hatchett, seconded by Judge Price. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn recognized Mr. Mark Wilkerson to provide a legal update. Mr. Wilkerson discussed the February 11, 2025, oral arguments in the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, the March 7, 2025, order by Civil Appeals, the plaintiff's petition for re-hearing and the Commission's response to the plaintiff's petition. Mr. Wilkerson also discussed a separate case where additional TROs were addressed by the Court of Civil Appeals in their order on March 21, 2025. Mr. Wilkerson also mentioned the upcoming April 17, 2025, hearing in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Chairman Vaughn moved to discuss decision items before the Commission. First, Mr. Aday and Mr. Wilkerson discussed a request from applicant Alabama Always, a "Request for Clarification," received by the Commission on March 14, 2025. The "Request for Clarification" was circulated to Commission Members. Applicant Alabama Always filed the request in Montgomery County Circuit Court on March 14 and the Commission responded to the request in a court filing made on March 26, 2025. Ms. Skelton commented on one of the clarification issues which dealt with the appointment of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Ms. Skelton suggested that there be discussion about who might be appointed as the ALJ. Judge Price also commented that the Commission "stick" with what the statute says in the selection process. A motion to adopt the Commission's response filed in circuit court on March 26, 2025, as the Commission's formal response to applicant Alabama Always' "Request for Clarification", was made by Mr. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Harwell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion received approval by the Commission.

Second, Mr. Wilkerson briefed the Commission on the second decision item before the Commission, the potential rulemaking pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. A motion for the Commission to approve for publication and public comment this proposed rule – Rule 538-X-3-.21, Effect of Final Order Following Evidentiary Hearing was made by Vice Chairman Blakemore and seconded by Dr. Jensen. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion received approval by the Commission.

There was no old or new business and Chairman Vaughn asked Commissioners if there were further items to discuss. Judge Price suggested that the Commission continue to monitor the status of annual fees for the renewal of licenses, particularly if the program is not running at the time those annual fees are due. Chairman Vaughn announced that the next meeting of the Commission would be on May 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Ms. Skelton, and approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.