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2 Councilmember David Grosso

_____ Councilmember Tommy Wells

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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13 To declare the existence of an emergency, with the respect to the need amend, on an emergency
14 basis, the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1998 to expand
15 the definition of a qualifying medical condition to allow physicians to determine whether
16 a patient would benefit from medical marijuana treatment and to increase the number of
17 living plants medical marijuana cultivation centers can possess at any time.

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19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “Medical Marijuana Expansion Emergency Declaration
21 Resolution of 2014”.

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23 Sec. 2. (a) In 2010, the Council passed Bill 18-622, the “Legalization of Marijuana for
24 Medical Treatment Initiative Amendment Act of 2010,” (“2010 Act”) in order to “ensure that the
25 cultivation, distribution, possession, and use of medical marijuana is properly regulated.”

26 (b) Four years later, the District’s medical marijuana program has only 452 registered
27 patients.

28 (c) On October 21, 2013, during a Committee on Health public roundtable on the medical
29 marijuana program and how the program can be improved two primary suggestions emerged
30 from that discussion: (1) Expanding the list of qualifying conditions and (2) Allowing cultivation
31 centers to possess more living marijuana plants.

1 (d) Current law severely limits the qualifying conditions, leaving many District residents
2 suffering unnecessarily from significant pain, seizures, and numerous other conditions that are
3 alleviated by medical marijuana use.

4 (e) The current limits on the number of plants impedes cultivators ability to provide
5 medical marijuana to patients in a manner other than smoking.

6 (f) A joint hearing was held on June 12, 2014 between the Committee on the Judiciary
7 and the Committee on Health. There was only one public witness who spoke in opposition to the
8 legislation and the Executive was supportive.

9 (g) On July 1, 2014, the Judiciary Committee marked up the combined bills and
10 favorably approved them.

11 (h) In light of the significant time for permanent legislation to work its way through the
12 Congressional review period and the wrenching testimony of witnesses on conditions they are
13 experiencing, this emergency is necessary to put an immediate halt to the suffering many of our
14 residents currently experience.

15 (h) Approval of the emergency legislation will allow expansion of the medical marijuana
16 program to proceed over the summer.

17 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
18 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
19 Medical Marijuana Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2014 be adopted after a
20 single reading.

21 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.