

Pennsylvania launches 24th US medical marijuana program

April 17 2016



Pennsylvania Democratic Gov. Tom Wolfe speaks at a ceremony where he signed the medical marijuana bill known as Senate Bill 3 into law on Sunday, April 17, 2016, in Harrisonburg, Pa. Pennsylvania has become the 24th state to legalize a comprehensive medical marijuana program. (Daniel Zampogna/PennLive.com via AP)

Pennsylvania has become the 24th state to legalize a comprehensive

medical marijuana program.

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf signed the bill into law Sunday afternoon surrounded by a jubilant crowd of supporters at the Capitol building in Harrisburg.

"Marijuana is medicine and it's coming to Pennsylvania," said Democratic Sen. Daylin Leach, the bill's co-sponsor.

The bill's drafters say it could take two years to write regulations and get retailers opened, but a provision allows parents to legally administer medical [marijuana](#) to their children before the bill takes effect in a month.

The bill sets standards for tracking plants, certifying physicians and licensing growers, dispensaries and physicians. Patients could take marijuana in pill, oil, vapor, ointment or liquid form, but would not be able to legally obtain marijuana to smoke or grow.

Sen. Mike Vereb, a Republican, called on lawmakers to take on what he called "the number-one killer in Pennsylvania"—[opioid abuse](#).

"Opioid abuse has no party, has no color, has no religion," Vereb said. "Let's face it, that's the killer. What we're doing today is the healer."

Among those celebrating the victory was parent Dana Ulrich, who has fought for legal access to the drug in the belief that it would help her 8-year-old daughter Lorelei, who has numerous seizures every day.

"I never doubted for one second that this day would come," she told the crowd, thanking patient advocates and caregivers as well as lawmakers and the governor. "When you get a group of truly dedicated people together, that have the same goal and the same mind and the same hearts,

you can achieve anything."

Wolf called it "a great, great day for Pennsylvania, but more important, a great day for Pennsylvanians." He said he and lawmakers were responding not to a special interest group or to campaign contributors, but to "a real human need."

"When you have people who represent a cause as eloquently and in as heartfelt a way as the advocates for this have done, it shows that we can actually get something done that means something," Wolf said.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Pennsylvania launches 24th US medical marijuana program (2016, April 17) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-04-pennsylvania-24th-medical-marijuana.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.