

Medical marijuana bill passes, heads to Mississippi governor

January 27 2022, by Emily Wagster Pettus



State Sen. Kevin Blackwell, R-Southaven, lead negotiator, holds a tube containing a cigarette and a rolled hemp cigarette to illustrate to lawmakers what specific portions of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Equivalency Units would look like during his presentation of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act in the Senate Chamber at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Miss., Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022. The body passed the act. Credit: AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

Mississippi lawmakers are sending their governor a bill that would create a medical marijuana program for people with serious medical conditions.

If it becomes law, as anticipated, Mississippi would join the majority of states that let people use cannabis for medical reasons.

The House and Senate on Wednesday both passed the final [version](#) of the measure, [Senate Bill 2095](#).

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves could sign the bill, veto it or let it become law without his signature. He has not said what he will do, but legislators passed it by a wide enough margin to override a veto.

The bill says patients could buy up to to 3.5 grams of cannabis per day, up to six days a week. That is about 3 ounces per month. The bill also sets taxes on production and sale of cannabis, and it specifies that plants must be grown indoors under controlled conditions.

Reeves told [WLOX-TV](#) on Wednesday that he will have lawyers review the bill before he decides whether to sign it.

"We worked hard to reduce the overall amount of [marijuana](#) in the bill, and to the Legislature's credit, they made a lot of progress there," Reeves said.

A majority of Mississippi voters approved a medical marijuana initiative in November 2020, and it would have allowed people to buy up to 5 ounces a month. The state Supreme Court invalidated it six months later by ruling that the state's initiative process was outdated and the measure was not properly on the ballot.



A senator holds a bag of hemp product, used by Sen. Kevin Blackwell, R-Southaven, lead negotiator, to illustrate to lawmakers what specific portions of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Equivalency Units would look like, during his presentation of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act in the Senate Chamber at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Miss., Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022. The body passed the act. Credit: AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

Since shortly after the court ruling, legislators have been working to create a program that would allow people with conditions such as cancer, AIDS or [sickle cell disease](#) to buy marijuana in state-licensed dispensaries.

The Senate and House had passed slightly different versions of a [bill](#) this month, with bipartisan support. The two chambers subsequently agreed

on one version to send to the governor. The final version included some zoning provisions that cities wanted.

The National Conference of State Legislatures says [36 states and four territories](#) allow the medical use of cannabis.

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