

# Senate Judiciary Committee

*Matthew Schelzi 271-3266*

**SB 468**, relative to enabling alternative treatment centers to operate a greenhouse cultivation location.

**Hearing Date:** January 22, 2026

**Time Opened:** 1:33 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:52 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gannon, Abbas, Altschiller and Reardon

**Members of the Committee Absent:** Senator Carson

**Bill Analysis:** This bill enables alternative treatment centers to operate a greenhouse cultivation location.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Innis

Sen. Reardon

Rep. Polozov

Rep. Weber

Rep. McLean

Rep. Ebel

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**Who supports the bill:** Kennan Blum (Granite Leaf Cannabis), Sen. Howard Pearl (SD-17), Rep. Heath Howard (Strafford-Dist. 4), Nathaniel Gurein (NH Cannabis), Bob Rimol (Rimol Greenhouses), Hon. Jerry Knirk, Sen. Daniel Innis (SD-7), David Jenkins, Sen. Donovan Fenton (SD-10), Melanie Kasparian, Katie McLaughlin, Shaelagh Thurston, Sarah Robinson, Ericka Haddad, Kerri Perusse, Dana Dahl, Sheila Varden-Straffin, Dennis Straffin, Jennifer Beaudoin, Margaret Breton, James Riddle, Nicholas Nelson, Susan Bennett and Alicia Bennett.

**Who opposes the bill:** Sue Homola (SAM-NH), Catherine Lemay, and Daniel Richardson.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Pearl** said SB 468 would allow each Alternative Treatment Center to operate one greenhouse, subject to strict regulations and restrictions. The goal of the bill is to reduce the ATCs energy cost and make therapeutic cannabis more affordable. He said this is important as the program currently serves more than 17,000 registered patients and the number one complaint expressed by patients is affordability. He noted therapeutic cannabis is not covered by insurance and many patients have to pay for it

out of pocket. He said if patients cannot obtain their cannabis from New Hampshire ATCs, they are more likely to obtain it from unregulated sources. He said currently New Hampshire ATCs are only allowed to cultivate cannabis indoors and this puts them at a significant disadvantage. He said if this bill becomes law, ATCs will be able to utilize natural sunlight enabling them to produce some of their products more efficiently. He said this bill includes safeguards that the rules will be written to include location and security for the greenhouses. SB 468 would require ATCs to provide detailed plans on lowering energy costs before approval.

**Bob Rimol**, President of Rimol Greenhouse Systems, said one of his markets he sells to is the cannabis industry. He said a greenhouse is a controlled environment where you harness the sun's energy to grow a plant and the greenhouses he has seen around the country are very secure. He said, right now, New Hampshire dispensaries have an unsustainable business model.

**Dr. Jerry Knirk**, Chair of the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board, said the board voted to support SB 468. He said the bill will reduce energy costs and provide lower prices to patients. He said indoor cultivation drives up energy prices, and a large-scale greenhouse production of crops is financially beneficial. He said this bill is explicit in clarifying the rulemaking for placement and operation of greenhouses. He said security would still be strict and enforced.

**Senator Altschiller** asked if he had listening sessions with providers and patients.

**Dr. Knirk** said they talked to qualified therapeutic cannabis patients.

**Keenan Blum**, President and CEO of Grantie Leaf Cannabis, said SB 468 is important to his business as he is trying to make therapeutic cannabis as affordable as possible for patients who rely on it. He said indoor growth is the most expensive way to grow cannabis or any plant because of the lighting cost and temperature to control. It would be beneficial to grow cannabis using natural sunlight in a secure and well-regulated greenhouse. He said all ATC cultivation locations are subject to stringent detailed security requirements, such as video cameras in every space where cannabis is being produced and handled.

**Senator Reardon** asked if someone could visit their facility.

**Mr. Blum** said other than ATC agents or necessary contractors, they cannot let anyone in without approval from the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Senator Reardon** asked if that would also apply to the greenhouse.

**Mr. Blum** said yes, no one will be able to tour without prior authorization.

**Senator Reardon** asked who their electrical provider is.

**Mr. Blum** said Eversource and noted, for perspective, their electrical bill is \$25,000 a month.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:**

**Sue Homola**, SAM-NH, said she opposed SB 468. She said this bill was vetoed previously for security concerns. She said there are no security requirements for the greenhouses in the bill. She said in the language, towns must solicit input from qualifying patients, caregivers and residents of the town or city. However, nowhere in the language is there a requirement for input from law enforcement, doctors, or addiction specialists.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 27, 2026