

Senate Judiciary Committee

Brendan Bunnell 271-4063

SB 650, relative to use of cannabis products for therapeutic purposes by alternative treatment centers.

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Time Opened: 2:28 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:43 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Carson

Bill Analysis: This bill permits alternative treatment centers to use certain cannabis products for therapeutic purposes.

Sponsors:

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Innis

Sen. McGough

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. Murphy

Rep. Polozov

Rep. Weber

Rep. C. McGuire

Rep. Ebel

Who supports the bill: Senator David Rochefort (Senate District 1), Senator Tim McGough (Senate District 11), Senator Daniel Innis (Senate District 7), Daryl Eames (NH Cannabis Association), Matt Simon (Granite Leaf Cannabis), Alicia Bennett (Granite Leaf Cannabis), Honorable Jerry Knirk (TCMOB), Katie McLaughlin, Billy Galipeault, Rebecca Cook, Dawn McAviney, Eric McAviney, James Riddle, Jennifer Beaudoin, Tadeausz Zedon, Sandra DeHut, James Moore, Susan Moore, Kristen Kinsey, Beth Edwards, and Barbara Langworthy.

Who opposes the bill: Daniel Richardson.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented:

Trisha Melillo, Senate Majority Caucus Director, introduced the bill on behalf of Senator Rochefort. She explained that the bill would allow medical cannabis treatment centers to expand product offerings to non-intoxicating federally legal hemp.

- Explained that, currently, ATCs in New Hampshire are required to produce all of the cannabinoids that they sell. This is costly and impractical and makes little

sense given that CBD and other non-intoxicating cannabinoids are widely available at relatively low cost from federally legal sources.

- Stated that the bill would require ATCs to have any hemp-sourced cannabinoids tested by an independent lab before using them to make products.

Matt Simon, a representative of Granite Leaf Cannabis, spoke in support of SB 650. He explained that a similar bill had been introduced last year, HB 51, but that bill had included language which removed seeds from the definition of cannabis, a potential gray area which may have been created by recent federal changes to the definition of hemp.

- Identified another key change to the bill in lines 20-23 where the concern was raised that the ATCs would be able to buy synthetic THC, and where the language has been altered to make clear that ATCs can only buy natural THC.
- Stated that this bill has been requested by various medical practitioners seeking to offer a wider range of products, particularly those that are non-intoxicating.
- Explained that Granite Leaf Cannabis offers some of these products, but are forced to grow the CBD indoors under high intensity lighting when they could be buying it from other sources for “pennies on the dollar” from a hemp company.
- Senator Abbas asked whether the language of THCA should be added to lines 20-23.
 - Matt Simon said that he saw no harm in such an addition, and that his company has always treated THCA as a form of THC regardless.

Alicia Bennett, the Education and Outreach Coordinator of Granite Leaf Cannabis, spoke in support of the bill. She explained that the goal of therapeutic cannabis is to find the most optimal dose of the most beneficial combination of compounds in cannabis, and how this legislation could pursue that goal.

- Explained that CBD and CBG are well known for their benefits to anxiety, depression and insomnia. She stated that CBN is another popular cannabinoid used for insomnia, often with THC.
- Alicia Bennett explained that as a patient on the company’s program she has personally experienced the benefits of all three of the non-intoxicating cannabinoids mentioned prior.
- Stated that currently, it is simply not profitable for ATCs in New Hampshire to produce these positive non-intoxicating cannabinoids, despite the positive benefits that they could have for their patients.

- Senator Gannon asked if Ms. Bennett had a background in medicine or pharmaceuticals.
 - Alicia Bennett responded that she had a background in horticulture.

The Honorable Jerry Knirk, the Chair of the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board, stated that his organization supported the bill. He explained that intoxication was not the goal of therapeutic cannabis, but a troubling side effect.

- Stated that a hypothetical patient using medical cannabis to treat pain is potentially at risk because of the intoxicating effects, necessitating non-intoxicating cannabinoids with similar effects.
- Explained that ATCs are not allowed to possess a federal hemp license, leading to difficulty acquiring enough non-intoxicating cannabinoids to make their products. This leads to the ATCs being able to deliver the low-cost high-quality products that any establishment in a free marketplace seeks to provide.
- Stated that this bill would allow ATCs to purchase sufficient non-intoxicating cannabinoids to meet the requirements to sell these products. He explained that these purchased materials would be subject to the necessary scrutiny by third parties to ensure their legitimacy.
- Expressed that there was not much need to bring THCA into this bill, as the therapeutic cannabis market is highly regulated unlike the hemp market where a specific distinction may have more value. He added that any amount of THCA would be included on the label, and that this bill is concerned with specific non-intoxicating cannabinoids.
- Senator Abbas asked if it was the Honorable Jerry Knirk’s understanding that the language on lines 14 to 19 would only apply to CBD and non-intoxicating cannabinoids.
 - The Honorable Jerry Knirk responded that it was, and that they would be limited to this specific set of concentrates and materials from specific manufacturers.
- Senator Abbas asked for clarification on the use of “concentrate.”
 - The Honorable Jerry Knirk clarified that any cannabinoid could be used as a concentrate in a pure form, and that it could be any one of the 70 possible types.