

Senate Judiciary Committee

Pete Mulvey 271-4063

HB 190-FN, relative to therapeutic cannabis possession limits.

Hearing Date: April 15, 2025

Time Opened: 2:18 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:30 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill increases qualifying patients' limit on possession of therapeutic cannabis from 2 to 4 ounces, and increases the amount they may obtain in a 10-day period from 2 to 4 ounces.

Sponsors:

Rep. H. Howard

Rep. Newell

Rep. W. Thomas

Rep. Vail

Rep. Tom Mannion

Rep. Layon

Rep. A. Murray

Sen. Prentiss

Who supports the bill: 36 individuals signed in support of HB 190-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who opposes the bill: Five individuals signed in opposition to HB 190-FN. Contact peter.mulvey@gc.nh.gov for further details.

Who is neutral on the bill: N/A

Summary of testimony:

Representative Heath Howard

Strafford – District 4

- Rep. Howard introduced HB 190, which increased possession limits for therapeutic cannabis patients from two ounces of cannabis to four ounces.
- Individuals residing in the northern part of the State have trouble traversing south to obtain their therapeutic cannabis.
- Some individuals converted their cannabis into baking oils, which required a significant quantity of the substance compared to smoking or other forms ingestion.
- People who ingested cannabis via edibles preferred to have significant quantities to yield suitable concentrations, compared to those who ingest via smoking.

Dr. Jerry Knirk, M.D

Chair, Therapeutic Medical Cannabis Oversight Board

- Dr. Knirk spoke in support of HB 190.
- HB 190 increased the possession limit from two ounces to four ounces and increased the quantity which could be dispensed to a patient in a ten-day period.
- Many patients created edibles which required a significant amount of cannabis.
- The primary reason behind the proposal was patient accessibility. For rural patients, a trip to an Alternative Treatment Center was particularly troubling, especially for those with chronic pain or the elderly.
- A standard pharmacy may dispense three months' worth of medication at a time.
- HB 190 would make care easier for patients.
- Sen. Abbas questioned how HB 190 would save patients money.
 - Dr. Knirk said individuals required a significant quantity of cannabis to make edibles, however, given possession limits, they were more likely to purchase edibles at the treatment center at a higher cost. Dr. Knirk was uncertain toward direct savings and elaborated that enabling home made edibles would save money for patients purchasing them at the storefront.
- Sen. Abbas asked how much two oz of cannabis flower cost.
 - Dr. Knirk said it depended.

Sue Homola

Smart Approaches to Marijuana

- Ms. Homola spoke in opposition to the bill.
- 400mg of edible cannabis oil is \$40 from Granite Leaf Cannabis.
- Ms. Homola considered a jump from two ounces to four ounces significant.
- Ms. Homola's primary concern was that the frequency to purchase was not adjusted accordingly.
- Ms. Homola provided a graph detailing that some states tied the quantity of the product sold to the permissible frequency of sales.
- The only other states which allowed more products were liberal when it came to drug policy, according to Ms. Homola.

Dr. Joe Hannon

- Dr. Hannon spoke in support of the bill.
- The bill did not expand who could access cannabis.
- The bill simply improved access for those who were already patients.
- The fiscal note proved that the bill imposed no cost on the State.
- Dr. Hannon found the bill fiscally neutral, medically appropriate, and patient focused.
- Dr. Hannon drew a parallel and stated that it was incomprehensible for the government to regulate how much insulin or heart pressure medication an individual got.
- Sen. Gannon asked if the system was flawed in that it operated off of amount and not concentration of product.
- Dr. Hannon believed that the therapeutic cannabis program worked fine. Dr. Hannon clarified that imposed limits on quantity will simply encourage greater concentration and strength.

PM

Date Hearing Report completed: April 21, 2025