

SB468 House Testimony

by Sue Homola, SAM NH Chairman

SB468 - Allowing ATCs to Operate a Greenhouse

- The sponsors of this bill state that allowing ATCs to use an outdoor greenhouse would reduce utility costs associated with indoor growing. However, ATCs have also testified last year in House committee that they still have capacity for more growing in their current facilities.
- Much like previous efforts to allow greenhouse growing, this bill continues to lack details regarding security and safety, which is why the same bill was vetoed by Governor Sununu during his time in office.
- The impetus for this bill would be to reduce marijuana grow costs and provide a more affordable product to TCP cardholders because NH residents can obtain a less expensive product in our surrounding states.

Three reasons why the ATCs will never be able to compete with the marijuana prices of our neighbors:

1. Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine have too many marijuana retailers. This forces them to lower their prices to stay competitive, which have already put retailers out of business.
<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/news/retailers-and-growers-are-crowding-vermonts-cannabis-market-43528481/>
<https://valleyadvocate.com/2025/04/18/the-ills-of-a-billion-dollar-enterprise-the-slow-death-of-the-cannabis-industry-and-what-might-be-done-to-reverse-the-trend/>
 2. Maine has different medical marijuana grow laws and their product is not subjected to the same testing requirements. The cost of this product will always be cheaper than the ATC product.
 3. Legalization allows black markets to hide in plain sight, which also floods the market with lower priced product. Maine in particular is struggling with this issue and has hundreds of illegal, cartel-owned marijuana grow operations that flood their market with cheap product.
- This bill is just another expansion and departure from the original intent of the NH Therapeutic Cannabis Program.
 - One important note: This bill states *“The department shall, in conjunction with the local governing body of the town or city where the additional cultivation location would be located, solicit input from qualifying patients, designated caregivers, and residents of the town or city in which the additional cultivation location would be located.”*

By including qualifying patients and designated caregivers in the list of required people to notify, **this bill essentially animates a lobbying group so it can descend on a town select board**

meeting and express their views in support of greenhouse growing as each location is considered. This bill doesn't require notification of law enforcement personnel, law enforcement associate organizations, drug prevention groups, or even drug addiction specialist when a new greenhouse location is being considered, so why should 13,000+ TCP cardholders and their designated caregivers who probably do not live in that community be notified? **It is statute-mandated, inappropriate lobbying.**

SAM NH RECOMMENDATION:

- Interim Study SB468.
- If the House chooses to pass this bill, SAM NH recommends it remove the provision for mandated notification of TCP cardholders and designated caregivers.