

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott Allows Cannabis Bill to Become Law Without Signature

Vermont Governor Phil Scott has allowed H.612, a bill aimed at improving regulations surrounding cannabis and hemp-derived products, to pass into law without his signature. This move signifies a nuanced stance on cannabis policy in the state.

Mixed Reception from the Governor

Scott's decision reflects a mixed reception to the bill's provisions. While acknowledging its positive aspects, such as safeguarding access to medical cannabis for individuals with documented medical needs and addressing municipal concerns regarding cannabis cultivation, Scott also expressed concerns about potential increases in cannabis use, particularly among youth, due to the availability of high-potency medical products in retail stores.

Key Provisions of the Bill

H.612 codifies rules adopted by the Vermont Cannabis Control Board, particularly focusing on limiting the sale of intoxicating hemp-derived products containing more than 0.3% total THC. The bill also introduces changes related to advertising restrictions, zoning regulations, and medical cannabis provisions, including reduced fees for medical dispensaries and expanded qualifying conditions for the medical registry.

Reaction from Stakeholders

Stakeholders, including the Vermont Growers Association and local leaders, have expressed mixed reactions to the bill. While some applaud its ban on psychoactive hemp-derived products and adjustments to medical cannabis regulations, others remain cautious about its impact on youth cannabis use and the economic viability of medical dispensaries.

Governor Scott's decision to allow H.612 to become law without his signature reflects the complexities of cannabis policy in Vermont. While the bill introduces significant changes to cannabis regulations, its reception among stakeholders remains varied, highlighting the ongoing debate surrounding cannabis legalization and regulation in the state.

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