

# Michigan Lawmakers Aim to Simplify Cannabis Regulations

## New Bipartisan Bills Aim to Align Michigan's Medical Cannabis Regulations with Recreational Usage

In a significant move towards streamlining marijuana regulations in Michigan, new bipartisan bills have been introduced to align medical marijuana regulations with those for recreational usage. Currently, the state's medical and recreational marijuana rules operate under two distinct laws: the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act, established by the Legislature in 2016, and the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, which was approved by voters in 2018.

### Cosponsors and Legislative Goals

The proposed legislation is cosponsored by Representatives Graham Filler (R-Duplain Township) and Jimmie Wilson, Jr. (D-Ypsilanti). The lawmakers believe that unifying the regulatory framework will simplify operations for both marijuana businesses and state regulators.

“Streamlining and simplifying these laws is a win for everyone involved—from businesses to patients to regulators,” said Filler. “By modernizing the regulatory process, we can help businesses cut costs and increase efficiency.”

### Current Licensing System

Under the current dual-license system, [cannabis licensees](#) must obtain separate medical and recreational licenses to grow, process, transport, or sell cannabis. This system creates additional bureaucratic overhead and increases costs for industry participants.

### Proposed Changes

The new bills aim to consolidate the licensing process into a single license for each activity. This change is expected to reduce administrative burdens and streamline operations for marijuana businesses.

“This is about making Michigan an attractive and stable place for marijuana businesses to thrive,” stated Wilson. “A single, cohesive regulatory framework will support our growing economy, ensure the safety and quality of marijuana products, and maintain access for medical marijuana patients. This is a forward-thinking approach that positions Michigan as a leader in the industry.”

### Legislative Process

House Bills 5884 and 5885 have been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform. Here, the bills may undergo adjustments before being sent to the House for a vote. If passed, these bills could significantly impact Michigan's marijuana industry by providing a unified regulatory environment that benefits businesses, patients, and regulators alike.

### **Impact on the Cannabis Industry**

This legislative effort underscores the ongoing evolution of marijuana laws in Michigan, reflecting a broader trend towards simplifying and integrating cannabis regulations. The move is expected to foster a more efficient, accessible, and business-friendly environment, ultimately benefiting the state's economy and its citizens.

The introduction of these bipartisan bills highlights the commitment of Michigan legislators to improve and streamline marijuana regulations in the state. By aligning medical marijuana regulations with those for recreational use, the state aims to create a more cohesive and efficient system that supports the growth and stability of the marijuana industry.

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