

# New Hampshire Senate President Pushes for Revisions to House-Approved Cannabis Legalization Bill

A New Hampshire cannabis legalization bill already passed by the House of Representatives landed in a Senate committee on Thursday, where opponents of the current version—including Sen. Daryl Abbas (R) and Senate President Jeb Bradley (R)—unveiled amendments that would revise major portions of the proposal.

## Additional Cannabis-Related Measures Discussed

In addition to the cannabis legalization bill, the Senate panel also considered three other cannabis-related measures, including proposals to double the amount that medical patients can possess and provide legal relief for people with past cannabis convictions.

## Warning Against Assumptions: Sponsor's Caution

Despite the eagerness of some on the Senate Judiciary Committee to make adjustments to the legalization bill, its sponsor, Rep. Erica Layon (R), warned the panel against assuming that House lawmakers will sign off on any proposed changes.

## Proposed Amendments by Opponents

Changes proposed by Sen. Abbas would increase penalties for public cannabis consumption and shift the bill's regulatory approach to a franchise system overseen by the state's Liquor Commission.

## Senate President's Suggestions

Senate President Bradley suggested revisions including removing provisions allowing noncommercial sharing, implementing an upper limit on THC levels, and reducing the number of adult-use stores that each medical cannabis company could operate.

## Debate Over Public Consumption

The debate over public consumption of cannabis emerged as a chief sticking point, with Sen. Abbas advocating for increased penalties while others argued against criminalizing such behavior.

## Governor's Position and Potential Changes

Governor Sununu has expressed openness to supporting the legalization bill if amendments are made in the Senate, signaling a potential pathway for compromise.

## Ongoing Back-and-Forth

The discussion highlighted ongoing divisions within the Republican Party over the issue of cannabis legalization, with competing factions advocating for differing approaches.

### **Potential Implications**

Failure to reach agreement could threaten the legalization bill entirely, despite majority support for the policy change, underscoring the importance of finding common ground between the House and Senate versions.

### **Looking Ahead**

Committee members will continue to review the legislation, with further deliberation expected in the coming weeks as they work towards a consensus on cannabis legalization in New Hampshire.

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