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Texas legislature approves bill to study psychedelics to treat PTSD in veterans

It's unclear whether the governor will support the measure

Josh Marcus San Francisco | Monday 31 May 2021 19:12 | [comments](#)



Daily micro doses of psilocybin “magic” mushrooms in a pill box
(Getty Images/iStockphoto)



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Just in time for Memorial Day, the Texas legislature has approved a bill to study the use of psychedelic drugs for medical treatment of military veterans.

On Sunday, a proposal called HB 1802 passed both houses in the Lone Star State, which would approve the study of MDMA, ketamine, and psilocybin, the active ingredient in “magic” mushrooms, for medical uses, including a psilocybin clinical trial treating vets with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



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the bill, **in a statement**. “It’s said that ‘as goes Texas, so goes the nation.’ While states across the country consider how best to address the mental health crisis facing our nation, I hope they once again look to Texas for leadership.”

Under the initiative, the Baylor College of Medicine and a Department of Veterans Affairs facility would conduct the studies, according to *Marijuana Moment*, which **reported the news**.

According to Mr Dominguez, each year, at least 6,000 veterans die by suicide because of PTSD.

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Texas governor Greg Abbott has not publicly taken a stance on the bill yet, and his office was closed and unable to be reached for comment due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Somewhat surprisingly in conservative Texas, the bill has attracted bipartisan support.

Former Texas governor and former US energy secretary Rick Perry, a Republican **has also endorsed the proposal**



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Veterans groups have also come out in support of the measure.

“I am so proud of Texas. I am so proud of not only the bipartisan support but the expediency in which they’ve pushed this legislation through the House and through the Senate,” Amber Capone, founder of Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions, **told KXAN**. “I feel like Texas will lead the way for all veterans in the United States.”

High-profile figures have touted the uses of mushrooms as well. Champion boxer Mike Tyson has said they “**saved my life**.”

The initiative is part of a broader loosening of drug regulations in the United States that goes **beyond just cannabis**.

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Due to federal prohibitions on controlled substances, research on their efficacy is limited, though this month, after more than 50 years, the government **expanded the list of companies allowed to produce cannabis for scientific study**, which used to be made by a single facility and of dubious quality.

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