



POLITICS

Missouri Patients Could Use Psychedelic Treatments Under New GOP 'Right-To-Try' Bill



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By Kyle Jaeger



A Republican Missouri lawmaker on Wednesday filed a bill to give residents with serious illnesses legal access to a range of psychedelic drugs like psilocybin, ibogaine and LSD through an expanded version of the state's existing right-to-try law.

This is the second time that [Rep. Michael Davis \(R\) has filed the legislation](#), which he says will align Missouri statute with federal right-to-try law which was "passed by a conservative majority in Congress and [signed by President Trump in 2018.](#)"

"There is emerging interest and significant clinical research supporting the safety and efficacy of psychedelic drugs for PTSD, traumatic injury therapy and numerous other conditions," Davis said in a press release. "Because the [Food and Drug Administration] has not taken action to reschedule these drugs and make them generally available, I am working to make these drugs available through Missouri's investigational drug access statute."

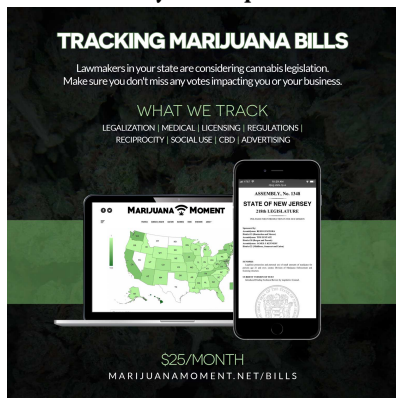
Under the bill, state statute would be amended so that it would not be considered an offense for patients participating in the right-to-try policy to possess Schedule I drugs such as MDMA, DMT, ibogaine, LSD, mescaline, peyote and psilocybin.

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The existing law, which currently allows patients with terminal illnesses to qualify, would also be expanded to cover those with debilitating and life-threatening conditions as well.

"The last few years of the COVID pandemic has created an epidemic of severe depression and other serious mental issues," Zinia Thomas of Radiance Ketamine in St. Louis said. "Representative Davis's bill gives us desperately needed clinically validated options to address a range of mental health conditions and hopefully stem the tide as suicides increase year over year."

Davis also discussed his psychedelics proposal at an event in November.

Rep. Michael Davis on Paths to Medical Freedom

"As a clinical psychologist with extensive experience treating combat-related PTSD with our veteran community, as well as depression and anxiety, I strongly believe that Rep. Davis' bill offers an opportunity for Missouri veterans and those suffering from mental illness' that haven't responded to traditional treatments to have access to novel and effective therapies," Larry Shapiro of the St. Louis-based Quantum Behavioral said.

"Psychedelic medicines and integration therapy have demonstrated enormous potential to address the mental health needs in our state and across the country," he added. "I call on the

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take action to refer the issue to voters, with one campaign officially launching signature gathering last month for a separate reform initiative.

Rep. Shamed Dogan (R) recently pre-filed his joint resolution to place a constitutional amendment on legalization on the 2022 ballot. He introduced a similar proposal last year, but it did not advance.

Under the lawmaker's plan, adults 21 and older could purchase, possess and cultivate cannabis for personal use. It does not specify allowable amounts.

Separately, the group New Approach Missouri, which successfully got a medical cannabis initiative passed by voters in 2018, announced last summer its plans to put the reform proposal on the ballot through its new campaign committee Legal Missouri 2022.

The organization tried to place the issue of legalization before voters in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic derailed that effort.

Despite the health crisis, activists managed to collect 80,000 raw signatures within months, though they needed 160,199 valid signatures to qualify.

A separate campaign, Fair Access Missouri, is separately exploring multiple citizen initiatives with the hopes of getting at least one on the ballot next year. Three of the four would create a system of legalized cannabis sales for adults 21 and older, while another would simply amend the state's existing medical marijuana program.

Italian Officials Certify Signatures For National Marijuana And Psilocybin Referendum

Italian officials certified on Wednesday that activists collected enough signatures to place a marijuana legalization referendum on the country's ballot this spring—though there's still one more procedural step before the measure will officially be on its way to voters. About three months after advocates turned in about 630,000 signatures for the measure—which would also legalize ... Continue reading



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Kyle Jaeger





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MD & DE legal cannabis bills advance (Newsletter: February 21, 2022)



Maryland Lawmakers Vote To Put Marijuana Legalization Referendum On November Ballot

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Top Federal Drug Agency Funds Research On Differing Legal Marijuana Regulatory Models



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By Kyle Jaeger



The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is renewing its push to promote federally funded research into marijuana as more states enact reform—specifically expressing interest in studies on differing cannabis regulatory models that are in place across the country.

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Colorado Lawmaker Presses For Marijuana Science Review To Look Fairly At Benefits As Well As Harms



Published 11 hours ago on February 21, 2022

By **Marijuana Moment**

“Just putting this information together and putting it into the form that is useful is an extraordinarily large task.”

By Faith Miller, Colorado Newsline

Researchers have made “a great deal of progress” on reviewing available evidence of high-potency marijuana products’ health effects, the dean of the Colorado School of Public Health told state lawmakers Friday.

The scientific review is required under 2021 legislation, [House Bill 21-1317](#), that sought

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As Incarceration Rates Drop, Pew Study Finds



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By Kyle Jaeger



Even as states have adopted less punitive drug policies—with an emphasis on treatment over incarceration—police have continued to arrest people for illegal substances at a steady rate, a new analysis from the Pew Charitable Trust found.

The report details several interesting trends in drug policy and enforcement that developed from 2009 to 2019. Researchers identified “divergent enforcement trends—high rates of arrest but substantially reduced incarceration—coupled with a lack of treatment options and high mortality rates among people with illicit drug dependence.”

There are a few data points that advocates are encouraged by: lower rates of incarceration.

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