

POLITICS

# Maine Senate Approves Medical Psilocybin Bill, But House Refusal Kills Measure This Year




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By Kyle Jaeger 





The Maine Senate this week approved a bill to to create a medical psilocybin p  state, but the House of Representatives refused to go along.



The legislation from Sen. Donna Bailey (D), which was [introduced around this time](#) l would have allowed adults 21 and older to access the psychedelic if they received a d recommendation. It did not list specific qualifying conditions.



While the Senate passed the [measure](#) with amendments on Tuesday in a 20-13 [vote](#), [refused](#) to go along, killing the proposed reform for the session. Still, the sponsor say intends to bring the idea back up next year—or work to put the issue before voters on ballot.

“I am thankful to my colleagues in the Senate for recognizing the urgent need for psi therapy to be legally available to our veterans and others suffering from PTSD, those struggling with substance use disorder, and those in need of end of life palliative care

now.”

**As amended, here’s what the Psilocybin Patient Care Act would have accomplish**

Patients 21 and older would have been able to receive a doctor’s recommendation for psilocybin for therapeutic purposes.

Doctors would have needed to dictate the “amount of psilocybin a patient may receive to treat or alleviate the patient’s medical condition.”

Regulators would have been required to create a “psilocybin service facilitator to help provide treatment to eligible patients.

A Maine Psilocybin Advisory Board would have been established, comprised of 10 members, including the director of the state’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the director of the Office of Behavioral Health under the Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine attorney general and “various representatives of public health and community interests, among other related interests.”

The board would have had annual reporting requirements, and it would have been tasked with making recommendations on additional rulemaking.

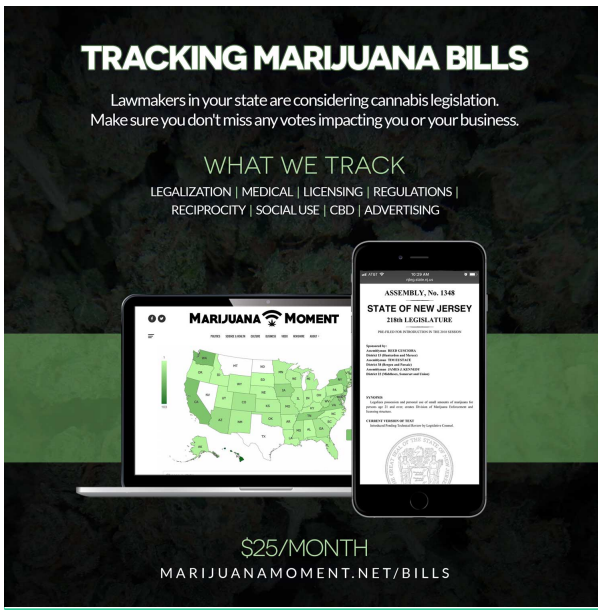
Regulators would have been required to adopt rules for the medical psilocybin program by January 15, 2025.

“We owe it to survivors to keep an open mind and explore all the possible means of easing their pain and helping them live full, satisfying lives in the wake of their traumatic experiences,” Bailey said on the Senate floor before the body’s vote. “From a medical perspective, there are many benefits to psilocybin therapy works rapidly and robustly within days, that’s immediate quick relief.”

Rep. Michele Meyer (D), who chairs the legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee where the bill was previously rejected in February, said her concern with the proposal was the fact that psilocybin has not been approved as a treatment option by the federal Food

Last year, the Maine Senate defeated a House-passed bill that would have [decriminal possession of all currently illicit drugs](#).

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**Marijuana Moment is already [tracking more than 1,000 cannabis, psychedelics drug policy bills](#) in state legislatures and Congress this year. [Patreon supporter](#) pledging at least \$25/month get access to our interactive maps, charts and hea calendar so they don't miss any developments.**



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Meanwhile, the state has [seen strong marijuana sales](#) since the adult-use program wa implemented in 2020.

But while the psychedelics reform measure—which largely reflects a [program that Or voters approved at the ballot in 2020](#)—died this session in Maine, the issue is receivir significant attention elsewhere in legislatures across the country.

For example, Maryland lawmakers [recently sent a bill to the governor](#) that would crea fund to provide “post-fire” access to psychedelics like psilocybin, MDMA, and ketami

injury.

However, the House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee also r separate legislation to create a psychedelics review panel to study substances like psi and DMT and issue recommendations on possible policy changes.

Also this month, Georgia lawmakers advanced a bipartisan resolution that calls for th formation of a House study committee to [investigate the therapeutic potential of psychedelics](#) like psilocybin and make recommendations for reforms.

The governor of Utah last month signed a bill to create a task force to study and make recommendations [on the therapeutic potential of psychedelic drugs](#) and possible reg for their lawful use.

A Missouri House committee also held a hearing last month on a GOP-led bill to [legal wide range of psychedelics for therapeutic use](#) at designated care facilities while furtl decriminalizing low-level possession in general.

A Connecticut legislative committee approved a bill last month that would set the sta provide certain patients with [access to psychedelic-assisted treatment](#) with su MDMA and psilocybin. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont (D) signed a separate bil includes language requiring the state to [carry out a study into the therapeutic potent psilocybin mushrooms](#). A [workgroup](#) has since been meeting to investigate the issue.

The Washington State legislature recently sent a budget bill to the governor's desk th includes a proposal to [direct \\$200,000 in funding to support a new workgroup](#) to stud possibility of legalizing psilocybin services in the state, including the idea of using cu marijuana regulatory systems to track psychedelic mushrooms.

Last month, the Hawaii Senate approved a bill to set up a state working group to [stud therapeutic benefits of psilocybin mushrooms](#) and develop a “long-term” plan to ens the psychedelic is accessible for medical use for adults 21 and older.

Also last month, the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed a bill to [decriminali level possession of psilocybin](#) and promote research into the therapeutic potential of

prescribe the psychedelic mushroom.

An Oregon Senate committee also recently advanced a bill to ensure that equity is [by the state's historic therapeutic psilocybin program](#) that's actively being implemented following voter approval in 2020.

A bill to decriminalize a wide array of psychedelics in Virginia was taken up by a House Delegates panel in January, [only to be pushed off until 2023](#). A separate Senate proposal to decriminalize psilocybin alone [was later defeated in a key committee](#).

California Sen. Scott Wiener (D) told Marijuana Moment in a recent interview that his bill to [legalize psychedelics possession](#) stands a 50/50 chance of reaching the governor's year. It already cleared the full Senate and two Assembly committees during the first of the two-year session.

Washington State lawmakers [also introduced legislation in January](#) that would legalize the bill calls "supported psilocybin experiences" by adults 21 and older.

Meanwhile, a Pennsylvania bill meant to promote research into the therapeutic use of [psilocybin mushrooms for certain mental health conditions](#) may be in jeopardy, with the bill's sponsor saying that the chair of a key House committee is [expressing reservations even though the legislation](#) was amended in an effort to build support.

New Hampshire lawmakers filed measures to [decriminalize psilocybin and all drugs](#).

Legislation was [also enacted by the Texas legislature](#) last year requiring the state to study the medical risks and benefits of psilocybin, MDMA and ketamine for military veterans in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine and a military-focused medical center.

At the congressional level, bipartisan lawmakers sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in January, urging that the agency [allow terminally ill patients to receive psilocybin](#) as an investigational treatment without the fear of federal prosecution.

## Executive Steps, Slamming Senate Inaction



The governor of Kentucky on Thursday explained how he plans to advance the issue of medical marijuana administratively, criticizing the Senate for failing to heed the will of voters and for “obstructing” reform by refusing to even give a hearing to a House-passed bill this year. Gov. Andy Beshear (D) has made several comments about

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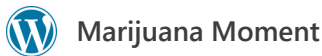


Image courtesy of [Kristie Gianopulos](#).

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Kyle Jaeger is Marijuana Moment's Sacramento-based senior editor. His work has also appeared in High



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