

2009 Illinois Medical Cannabis Legislation Introduced

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SPRINGFIELD- Illinois could become the next state to protect the sick and terminally ill from arrest for using cannabis under the recommendation of their physician. State Senator William Haine introduced Senate Bill 1381 today, the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, which would allow those with a physician's recommendation to possess up to two ounces of usable cannabis and up to seven plants.

Currently 13 states allow the physician recommended use of cannabis and about 24% of Americans live in a state that protects medical cannabis patients. Cannabis can be helpful in treating numerous conditions and those qualifying for protection under the act include glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, chemotherapy treatment for cancer, hepatitis c, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, chronic pain, Alzheimer's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Under the proposed legislation the Dept. of Public Health would issue registry cards for patients and their caregivers. The legislation states that cannabis plants must be grown in an enclosed locked facility and does not allow for cannabis to be smoked in public or on public transportation. It would also not be permitted on school or correctional facility property. As of February 18, SB 1381 has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Public Health. To send an email to your State Senator follow this link.