

The Daily Chronic

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New York Medical Marijuana Bill Stalled in Senate Committee

By [Sativa Galore](#) on March 27, 2013

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ALBANY, NY — A bill that would legalize the possession, sale, delivery, dispensing and distribution of medical marijuana in the Empire State has apparently stalled in a Senate committee.

Senate Bill 1682, introduced by Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-25) in January, has been assigned to the Senate Health Committee where it lies dormant and forgotten.

The bill, if passed, would legalize the possession, manufacture, sale, administration, delivery, dispensing and distribution of medical marijuana for certified patients with a serious medical condition.

Patients would need to be certified yearly by their doctors, and recommendations would only be valid for up to six months at a time, limits similar to current regulations for prescription drugs in the state.

The bill would also allow registered organizations to grow, sell, administer, or deliver medical marijuana to certified patients or their caregivers. The organizations would not be required to be non-profit, as some states require, but would be closely regulated.

Patients or their caregivers would be allowed to sell excess medical marijuana to other patients or caregivers, and caregivers would be allowed to charge patients for the medical marijuana services they provide.

The bill restricts the use of medical marijuana to patients with a “serious condition,” which the bill defines as a “life-threatening, degenerative or permanently disabling condition, or a condition associated with or a complication of such a condition.”

The bill would also require that medical marijuana is dispensed in an enclosed, suitable container with labeling consistent with current prescription medications provided by pharmacies. Labeling requirements would also include the wording “medical marijuana” or “controlled substance” on an orange label, affixed to the medication’s container.

The bill, similar to New York’s existing marijuana decriminalization law, would prohibit the consumption or “public display” of medical marijuana.

Patients and caregivers would be limited to the possession of 8 ounces of marijuana.

The Department of Health would be charged with the program’s oversight.

Medical marijuana can only become a reality in New York if this bill progresses out of committee.

New York residents can contact members of the Senate Health Committee and voice their support of the bill:

- [Eric Adams](#)
- [Greg Ball](#)
- [Hugh T. Farley](#)
- [Simcha Felder](#)
- [Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.](#)
- [Martin J. Golden](#)
- [Kemp Hannon](#)
- [Ruth Hassell-Thompson](#)
- [William J. Larkin Jr.](#)
- [Velmanette Montgomery](#)
- [Ted O’Brien](#)
- [José Peralta](#)
- [Gustavo Rivera](#)
- [John L. Sampson](#)
- [Diane J. Savino](#)
- [James L. Seward](#)
- [Catharine Young](#)

Note to readers from Senator Montgomery’s office: Senators’ contact information can be found via the Senate website at nysenate.gov.