

# Senate OKs medical marijuana; home use next?

By DAN GUIDO

The use of marijuana, under certain circumstances, could soon be legal in Michigan.

The Michigan Senate recently passed a bill to allow the medical use of marijuana for cancer patients throughout the state.

The final roll call showed 29 Senators voting for legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, with only five voting no.

Included in the 29 affirmative votes were Senators Robert Geake, R-Northville, whose district includes Plymouth and Livonia; Ed Pierce, D-Ann Arbor; and Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, whose district includes Farmington and Southfield.

Senate Bill 185 was introduced by Sen. Steve Monmsa, D-Grand Rapids.

THE MEDICAL marijuana bill follows on the heels of a bill passed by the senate in May which would decriminalize the use of small amounts of marijuana (less than 30 grams) in the privacy of one's home.

That bill passed the Senate by a 20-14 vote with Geake voting against it, Pierce and Ross in favor.

Both bills must now go before the Michigan House where it is generally conceded that both will pass because of

an influx of new representatives who have shown a favorable attitude toward medical use and decriminalization.

In a telephone interview shortly after the medical marijuana bill's passage, Roger Winthrop, the Michigan coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), declared a victory for those who have worked to pass pro-marijuana laws.

"Monmsa's bill should go a long way in helping those who suffer from the terrible side effects of chemotherapy and the pain of glaucoma to get relief," Winthrop said.

Dick Klaver, an administrative assistant to Monmsa, said the bill's passage by the senate and the eventual passage by the house should help to standardize current medical use of marijuana throughout the state.

"There are several clinics in Michigan and elsewhere in the nation which have been fighting for the right to administer marijuana to their patients."

"WHAT THIS bill will establish is a program with the Food and Drug Administration which will allow the legal use of marijuana by glaucoma and cancer patients who have received a prescription for the substance from their doctor," Klaver said.

*'I do think the discussion on the bill will be conducted in a better tone than it has been in previous years. We shouldn't have anybody hitting anyone else over the head with ashtrays like we had a couple of years ago.'*

— Roger Winthrop, NORML coordinator

Klaver explained that marijuana reduces the severe vomiting and stomach sickness, side effects of chemotherapy treatments administered to cancer patients. With glaucoma, Klaver added, the substance helps reduce the pressure on the afflicted person's eye.

"Seven other states already have passed similar medical marijuana bills, including New Mexico, which after months of paperwork has finally begun to receive a supply of marijuana from the federal government."

Klaver and Winthrop both agreed that the bill should pass the house without much trouble, but added that it could take months to get the clinical program worked out with the FDA which would start the flow of federally-grown marijuana to Michigan.

UNDER MONMSA'S bill, only licensed doctors would be allowed to prescribe marijuana to cancer and glaucoma patients.

The doctors also would be required to take delivery of the marijuana, because pharmacists would be prohibited from distributing the substance to the physicians' patients.

Klaver said he doubted there would be any problem with unauthorized persons getting marijuana from a physician's office without a prescription, or persons who do not suffer from cancer or glaucoma obtaining the substance illegally.

The decriminalization bill passed by the Senate, (SB 65) was sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hart, D-Saginaw. The bill, if signed into law, will mandate a civil, rather than a criminal, penalty for those who use 30 grams of pot or less in their own homes.

Hart said he proposed the legislation to the senate "because there is a demonstrable need in the state to create a uniform method of dealing with those persons who wish to use small amounts

of marijuana in their homes."

Current marijuana laws in Michigan are too "strict and enforced unfairly," he said. He believes the present system allows police officers too much discretion in enforcement.

"You might have a situation where a police officer pulls over a teenager for speeding and, when he does, notices a marijuana cigarette in the car."

"If the teenager is in any way belligerent to the cop, he'll get busted. If the kid is respectful to the cop, chances are the officer will ignore the marijuana and let him go. That type of enforcement I feel is very unfair."

HART SAID the bill was necessary from another standpoint.

"There are 35 million Americans who have smoked marijuana at one time or another, 15 million of which smoke it regularly. With these kind of statistics, it's stupid to keep busting people for marijuana and giving them criminal records."

Hart said he was opposed to the state legalization of marijuana because he felt the federal government should handle the issue.

"This type of thing needs to be uniform throughout the country. When you decide to legalize marijuana, you have to decide upon a way of marketing it. The only practical way would be for the federal government to commission farmers throughout the country to grow it, then package it and rate the stuff according to its potency, and sell and tax it through state approved facilities."

Although Hart said the Monmsa bill would easily pass through the house after the summer recess, he said he expected "one hell of a fight" to get his bill through the same body.

"Similar bills like mine went down in the house by three votes a couple of years ago, and by one vote this year.

Even with the new reps this year it still could be a hell of a battle to get it passed."

Winthrop said this year's decriminalization was the 20th such bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature in the past 11 years.

"Few people know there have been 20 attempts to get this through the house and senate. In fact we conducted a poll a while back which showed few senators knew that 20 decrim bills have been introduced in Michigan."

"The first 16 died in committee, the 17th lost by five votes, the 18th by three, and the 19th by one. So you can see, we're getting closer to passage every year."

Winthrop also expects a tough fight to get the decriminalization bill passed by the house.

"This is a very emotional issue in Michigan and always has been. There are a lot of reps in the house who feel very strongly on the issue, whether they are for or against it."

## Movies, sports, specials and no commercials now available in Oakland County.

**ON**  
SUBSCRIPTION TV

Call 583-2200

Get your pictures back tomorrow or get them

## FREE!

The Quick-as-a-Fox<sup>SM</sup> Guarantee.

Bring your roll of 110, 126, or 35mm color print film (full frame, C41 process only—includes all popular film) for developing and printing to a Fox Photo retail store Monday thru Thursday, before the afternoon pick-up (check your friendly store for exact time.) Your pictures will be ready after the last delivery the next day, excluding holidays. If not, your order is FREE!



**FOX PHOTO**

6 Convenient Locations To Serve You!

- 882 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
- 25604 Michigan Ave., Dearborn Heights
- 300 North Center, Northville
- 3636 W. Maple, Birmingham
- 8438 Telegraph Rd., Dearborn Heights
- 30209 Cherry Hill, Inkster

## 1/2 OFF

DEVELOPING AND PRINTING COLOR PRINT FILM

1/2 off the regular price of developing and printing of any size roll of color print film. Only one coupon per roll. Good through July 28, 1979 at any Fox Photo walk-in or drive-up store.

**FOX PHOTO**

Come on Over to Our House... for the Ethan Allen Summer Sale



**the Hearthside**  
MICHIGAN'S LARGEST  
ETHAN ALLEN  
FURNITURE DEALER  
LIVONIA • UTICA • SOUTHFIELD

Sale ends Sept. 2nd.

We Are In Our Final Rental Phase  
OVER 75% OCCUPANCY!

SO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT  
AN ELDERLY PARENT OR FRIEND,  
DON'T WAIT, CONSIDER THE

**FRANKLIN CLUB APARTMENTS**

An Adult Community Located at  
28301 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan

Among the Many Services We offer...

- Breakfast and Dinner
- Apartment Cleaning
- Linen Service
- Ongoing Activities
- Attendant on Duty 24 hrs. Daily
- All Utilities
- Chauffeur Services

and, of course, Companionship!

All Apartments are Air  
Conditioned and have Kitchenettes

Come to Our OPEN HOUSE

EVERY SUNDAY

from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

...And See For Yourself

Or Call 353-2810 for details

**\$2.00 GAS ALLOWANCE WITH THIS AD**

## Sidewalk Sale

1,000 ITEMS  
SPECIALLY PRICED FOR OUTDOOR SALE  
SPECIAL THIS WEEK ONLY  
SUITS & SPORTCOATS  
Limited Stock

Pierre Cardin  
Oscar de la Renta  
Martini  
Jupiter of France  
Reg. \$98 to \$158  
NOW 1/2 off  
3/4 Zip-Lined Leather Jacket  
Reg. \$175  
NOW \$98 to \$108

**RATED FOUR STAR BY THE UNDERGROUND SHOPPER**  
**JACK'S FACTORY OUTLET**  
336-8277  
Wholesale Men's Wear  
Miracle Mile Shopping Center  
Telegraph North of Square Lake Road  
Open Mon. Tues. Wed. 10-6 Thurs., Fri. 10-8 Sat. 10-7 Sun. 12-5

## Alpine Ski & Tennis SUMMER SKI SALE!

ALL REGULAR STOCK OF  
NATIONALLY ADVERTISED EQUIPMENT  
SALE PRICED!

Adult Ski Boots from \$69.95 to \$49.95 to \$29.95  
Adult Ski Bindings from \$49.95 to \$29.95 to \$19.95  
ENTIRE SKIWEAR STOCK  
UP TO 1/2 OFF  
SALE STARTS JULY 23 thru AUG. 4

**Alpine Ski & Tennis**  
4702 North Woodward - Sub-C-204  
LOCATED EAST 1/2 OF HARBORVIEW AT FOURTEEN MILE  
HOURS: Monday and Thursday 9:00-6:00  
Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00-6:00  
Saturday 9:00-5:00  
VISA, M/C, AMERICAN & MASTER CHARGE accepted.