



*State of New Hampshire*  
**House of Representatives**

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**LEGISLATURE BACKS MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL**

**CONCORD** – The New Hampshire House of Representatives joined with the Senate today to agree with amended language to a bill that would allow patients with debilitating illnesses to receive small amounts of marijuana.

Rep. Evalyn Merrick (D-Lancaster), one of the bill’s sponsors, was pleased with the decision.

“I’m very proud this bill evolved into an excellent piece of legislation,” she said. “The Committee of Conference created what I believe is the best medical marijuana legislation in the country.”

“Clearly, the Senate and House agreed and I believe Gov. Lynch will listen to the voices of the majority of citizens in New Hampshire and make the decision that is in the best interest of those who most suffer among us.”

The original medical marijuana bill, House Bill 648, let patients grow it at their home, but now they would go to a “compassion center,” a not-for-profit organization that must receive state certification.

The bill allows for up to three compassion centers, although language does allow for up to five centers after two years.

Committee of Conference Chair Rep. Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua) has said the limited number of compassion centers was based on overall need. She said conditions would apply to up to about 150 patients a year.

The vote in the Senate was 14 to 10. In the House, the vote was 232 to 108.

The bill now goes to Gov. John Lynch.