

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kirsten Koch 271-3266

HB 163-FN, relative to cannabis use during pregnancy.

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021

Time Opened: 8:46 a.m.

Time Closed: 8:53 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Gray, Avard, Sherman and Whitley

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires alternative treatment centers to prepare information regarding the risk of cannabis use during pregnancy. The bill also requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to prepare a brochure relative to the risk of cannabis use during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

Sponsors:

Rep. Marsh

Rep. Abrami

Rep. Rung

Rep. Crawford

Rep. Nelson

Rep. Knirk

Rep. Deshaies

Who supports the bill: Rep. William Marsh, Carroll 8; Rep. Jerry Knirk, Carroll 3; Robin Vogt.

Who opposes the bill: James Christilles

Who is neutral on the bill: Michael Holt, DHHS

Summary of Testimony Presented:

Representative William Marsh, Carroll 8

- Rep. Marsh said, this bill is relative to cannabis use during pregnancy.
- Rep. Marsh said, there was a bill similar to this bill last year that never got through due to the pandemic.
- Rep. Marsh said, this bill requires alternative treatment centers to prepare information regarding the risk of cannabis use during pregnancy. The bill also requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to prepare a brochure relative to the risk of cannabis use during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.
- Rep. Marsh said, cannabis use has not been approved by the FDA, but it has been allowed by the General Court in New Hampshire, so we must provide guidance.
- Rep. Marsh said, said there are concerns about cannabis causing learning disabilities and accidental poisonings, especially via edibles, in children.

Representative Jerry Knirk, Carroll 3

- Rep. Knirk is the chair of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board (TCMOB).
- Rep. Knirk said the TCMOB supports this bill.
- Rep. Knirk said a lot of studies have been based on recreational users of cannabis. Recreational users are not the same as therapeutic users. Studies are not reliable for this reason, but the concerns are real. Therapeutic users are treating a condition with cannabis while recreational users are using cannabis to get high.
- Rep. Knirk said, there is risk involved for cannabis use while breastfeeding and there are risks that effect adolescent development.
- Rep. Knirk said, we have already addressed concerns about accidental poisoning by not using attractive packaging for edibles.

KNK

Date Hearing Report completed: April 22, 2021