

AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS

MONTANA PROPOSED MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL

Title: The Montana Therapeutic Marijuana Act

Date Introduced: March 23, 2011

Description/Background: Will repeal the existing Montana Medical Cannabis Act and replace it with the one detailed in this bill

Sponsor(s): Essman

What the bill will do:

1. A patient with severe or chronic pain must have documentation from his or her primary care physician AND by a specialist with expertise in the disease process that is causing the pain AND objective proof of the etiology of the pain, including diagnostic tests that include but are not limited to the results of an X-Ray, CT Scan, or MRI.
2. In order for a patient to have a bona fide professional relationship with his or her physician, the relationship must have existed for at least six months and included at least four visits for the patient's debilitating medical condition.
3. The Department of Public Health and Human Services will provide the board of medical examiners with the name of each physician (other than a referral physician) who provides recommendations for more than 25 patients within a year.
4. The building where therapeutic marijuana is going to be cultivated may not be within 2,000 feet of a school, a family or group daycare home, an alcohol or drug treatment facility, or the principal campus of a postsecondary school or seminary.
5. No storefront dispensaries are allowed under this Act –all therapeutic marijuana must be brought to licensed cardholders via courier.

ASA's recommended action: Oppose