

# Senate Health and Human Services Committee

*Kirsten Koch 271-3266*

**HB 378**, repealing the therapeutic use of cannabis advisory council.

**Hearing Date:** March 17, 2021

**Time Opened:** 9:58 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:06 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill repeals the therapeutic use of cannabis advisory council.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Acton

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**Who supports the bill:** Matt Simon, Marijuana Policy Project; John Elliot; Alexandra Menella.

**Who opposes the bill:** Robin Vogt; Ryann Anderson; Sofia DiStefano; Jeremiah Moore.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Michael Holt, Therapeutic Cannabis Program-DHHS.

**Summary of Testimony Presented:**

**Representative Dennis Acton, Rockingham 10**

- Rep. Acton introduced the bill.
- Rep. Acton said this bill repeals the cannabis advisory council that was created to help the program get started up. We are now on Phase 2 of this program, which includes looking at qualifying conditions and what should be allowed for qualified conditions. This bill would close the cannabis advisory council that accomplished its task and move on to the cannabis medical oversight board. This is moving on to the next step.
- Senator Sherman asked if DHHS asked for this bill.
  - Rep. Acton said, no, I am an activist on this matter and took it on myself.
- Senator Bradley asked, while the bill repeals this council, is it correct that it does not touch the cannabis medical oversight board?
  - Rep. Acton said, that is correct. We are very happy with the work of the oversight board right now.

**Michael Holt, Therapeutic Cannabis Program - DHHS**

- Mr. Holt testified as neutral on the bill. He said he was present to answer questions.

- Mr. Holt said, the advisory council did not have a sunset provision. The advisory council was required to complete a report after 5 years on whether continuation is necessary. The council issued that report in 2018 and they have not met since.
- Mr. Holt said, there just needs to end to the council and for a transfer of responsibility from this council to the oversight board.
- Senator Sherman asked, is this appropriate to replace by the oversight board? Is this council necessary?
  - Mr. Holt said, the council has not met since 2018. Their voices were important for implementation and they are still a part of the stakeholder group. The oversight board is an excellent replacement.

KNK

Date Hearing Report completed: March 18, 2021