MEDICAL CANNABIS BILLS SUMMARY  
  
21 states have passed medical marijuana legislation. 2015 is the first year for a medical marijuana bill was introduced in the house and senate. HB 3785, is a companion measure to piggyback SB 1839, both of which intend to establish a statewide medical marijuana program, allowing patients with a recommendation from a doctor to have access to the herb. If passed, the Department of State Health Services would oversee the regulatory affairs of every aspect of the program, from cultivation to dispensary. It will also provide the ability for people to petition that their illness be included as a qualifying condition.   
  
According to Hemp News, “The bills differ from previously introduced legislation that would allow access to CBD oils with little or no THC. Many patients have found that THC and other components of whole marijuana are needed in addition to CBD in order to effectively treat their conditions. Some have relocated to states with more comprehensive medical marijuana laws so that they can access whole marijuana and oils that include a more balanced ratio of CBD and THC. “(hemp.org) Assigned to Public Health and Health/Human Services Committees. HB 3785 will have testimony on 04/28/15 in the Public Health Committee. Follow the bills: Marquez bill: <http://bit.do/HB3785> Menendez bill: <http://bit.do/SB1839>  
  
HB 837 – Affirmative Defense – Authored by Representative Elliot Naishtat (D). This would provide patients and caregivers a defense in court if caught possessing marijuana and would protect doctors from losing their licenses for discussing marijuana. HB 837 allows patients and caregivers the right to tell jurors that they use marijuana in a medical capacity. Currently patients are prohibited from telling jurors their marijuana consumption is for medical purposes. In Public Health Committee since 3/3/15. The bill will have testimony on 04/28/15 in the Public Health Committee. Follow the bill: <http://bit.do/HB837>

HB 892 & SB 339 – Limited CBD Only Bills – Authored by Representative Stephanie Klick (R) and Senator Kevin Eltife (R). These bills would allow for CBD only medicines to be used for people with intractable epilepsy in extreme cases. Both HB 892 and SB 339 provide for medical use of low-THC cannabis and the regulation of related organizations and individuals. This has been dubbed by many as CBD-only legislation and has received several complaints that it would severely limit access to medical marijuana, and would not be enacted until 2017 by the Department of Public Safety. HB 892 is in Public Health Committee since 2/25/15. SB 339 – In Health/Human Services Committee since 2/18/15. HB 892 will have testimony on 04/28/15 in the Public Health Committee. Follow the Bills: Klick bill: <http://bit.do/HB892> Eltife bill: <http://bit.do/SB339>   
  
**Action Alert!** Call thePublic Health Committee members (6 Republicans and 5 Democrats). Voice your support for bills: **HB 3785, HB 892, and/or HB 837.**  
  
COMMITTEE PHONE NUMBERS ALL BEGIN WITH (512) 463 -\_\_\_\_  
  
Rep. Crownover, Myra – R -0582 (Chair)  
Rep. Naishtat, Elliott – D -0668 (Vice Chair)  
Rep. Blanco, César – D - 0622   
Rep. Coleman, Garnet F. – D -0524  
Rep. Collier, Nicole – D -0716  
Rep. Davis, Sarah – R - 0389  
Rep. Guerra, Bobby – D - 0578   
Rep. Miller, Rick – R - 0710  
Rep. Sheffield, J. D. – R - 0628  
Rep. Zedler, Bill – R - 0374  
Rep. Zerwas, John – R - 0657  
  
**ACTION ALERT!** Call theHealth and Human Services Committee members (6 Republicans and 3 Democrats). Voice your support for bills: **SB 1839 and SB 339.**  
COMMITTEE PHONE NUMBERS ALL BEGIN WITH (512) 463 -\_\_\_\_  
  
Chair: Sen. Charles Schwertner**,** R **-**0105  
Vice Chair: Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst, R **-** 0118  
Members: Sen. Donna Campbell R - 0125Sen. Craig Estes R - 0130  
Sen. Charles Perry R - 0128  
Sen. José R. Rodríguez D - 0129  
Sen. Van Taylor R - 0108  
Sen. Carlos Uresti D - 0119  
Sen. Judith Zaffirini D – 0121  
  
  
Resources - cannabis/hemp news:   
  
“Texas: Lawmakers Introduce Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Bill”   
<http://hemp.org/news/node/4889>