

Assembly rejects Dem amendment on medical marijuana

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The state Assembly shot down a Dem amendment to a CBD oil bill that would've set up a process for letting people obtain medical marijuana.

The bill would shield from state prosecution those who possess the cannabidiol marijuana extract, which is used to treat seizures.

Rep. Chris Taylor, D-Madison, sought to amend the bill to let people access medical marijuana if they're registered with the Department of Health Services. The amendment also would have required DHS to license and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Taylor said her amendment calls for a "very specific, structured regulatory system" and noted some Republican-led states that now allow medical marijuana.

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"It's high time that Wisconsin join 28 other states and enter the 21st century," she said.

Rep. Joel Kleefisch, R-Oconomowoc, raised concerns that marijuana could be a gateway drug and that the amendment "substantially expands the scope of the bill." The Assembly voted on party lines that the amendment wasn't germane to the bill.

Speaker Robin Vos called it a "political stunt" and said the "silly" amendment would distract from a bipartisan effort on CBD oil.

The chamber's debate on the CBD oil is going on right now.