

Illinois Senate approves medical marijuana bill

May 28 2009

(AP) -- The push to legalize medical marijuana in Illinois has taken a big step forward.

The Illinois Senate voted 30-28 in favor of a plan to let sick people use pot for relief from diseases like [cancer](#), [AIDS](#) and [multiple sclerosis](#).

The bill now goes to the Illinois House, where a committee passed a medical marijuana measure earlier this year.

Bruce Mirken, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project, says that if the bill is eventually signed into law, Illinois would join 13 other states that have such measures in place.

Critics argue allowing medical marijuana would make it harder for police to enforce other marijuana laws and would be a step toward wholesale legalization of pot.

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Citation: Illinois Senate approves medical marijuana bill (2009, May 28) retrieved 14 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2009-05-illinois-senate-medical-marijuana-bill.html>

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