



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

Transportation Safety Division, MS #3

4040 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302-1142

Phone: (503) 986-4190

Fax: (503) 986-3143

DATE: April 1, 2015

TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Teresa Douglas, Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII
Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist

SUBJECT: House Bill 2025

Introduction:

House Bill 2025 allows participants in a DUII Diversion program to continue to use medical marijuana during the program.

Background:

DUII Diversion participants are required to remain abstinent from alcohol and drugs while on Diversion with the exception of prescribed medications, taken as prescribed. Treatment also requires abstinence during treatment, with the exception of prescribed medications, taken as directed by a doctor.

What the Bill Does:

This bill will allow DUII Diversion program participants to use medical marijuana while in the DUII Diversion program. .

Summary:

Medical marijuana, while called "medical" is not a prescribed medication and has no prescribed dosage attached to it. Unlike prescription medications, the treatment programs have no means to monitor medical marijuana to determine a medically appropriate dosage. With prescribed medications, treatment programs can monitor the number of pills taken and drug levels in urine. Treatment programs regularly communicate with the prescribing doctor and coordinate the usage of prescribed medications. Once the doctor makes a "recommendation" for a medical marijuana permit, there is usually no further follow up or communication with that doctor. There are also many generic reasons why a person qualifies for a medical marijuana permit. General pain is one of the available reasons. I once had a DUII Diversion client who used his bicycle for transportation. The client insisted on going to a clinic, all the way across town because they offered group on a night that he didn't play soccer. He had a medical marijuana card for back pain.

Clients who are under the influence of any intoxicant are difficult to treat effectively and many times are disruptive to those who are remaining abstinent while in treatment. However, there is an option available for anyone who legitimately needs to use medical marijuana to petition the court for permission. I have seen cases where the court has approved the use of medical marijuana for veterans with PTSD or those with cancer. No one wants to see clients suffer physically, however, in many cases there are alternatives such as prescription medications that can be accurately monitored. Therefore, the Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII is not in favor of this bill and would ask the committee for a no vote on this bill.