

Advocate says 'bureaucratic nonsense' holding up Michigan's marijuana law

BY JAKE NEHER



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A state panel will meet this week to consider whether new health conditions should be covered under Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act, but there's a question over whether the board's make-up violates that law.

The state dissolved a similar panel earlier this year. That board had already voted to allow patients suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and Parkinson's disease to use medical pot, but those conditions were never officially added to the list of acceptable ailments.

Now some advocates question whether the new board risks the same fate because it doesn't include proper representation from the medical community.

Attorney and medical marijuana advocate Michael Komorn says it could be a setback for patients.

"It just seems to be more bureaucratic nonsense that has impeded the proper implementation of this law. And it's uncalled for."

Komorn says it's critical to put a board in place that complies with the voter-approved law.

"I don't know why the government can't get it together to allow these other conditions - that people can receive benefits from - from moving forward," said Komorn.

State officials say they're working to fix the make-up of the panel.