

Public invited to discuss proposed changes to medical marijuana bill

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The Birmingham Compassion Club will host a discussion on Tuesday, July 24, at the Baldwin Public Library with Rep. Mike Callton, R-Nashville, who has introduced House Bill 5580 in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The bill is a medical-marijuana friendly “local option” bill that would allow municipalities a choice whether to embrace medical marijuana commercial activity — or not — in the form of “provisioning centers.”

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the Jeanne Lloyd Room at Birmingham’s Baldwin Public Library.

Southfield defense attorney Michael Komorn will also give a brief update on medical marijuana case law that has reaffirmed or strengthened existing protections for patients and caregivers under the Act. Lansing attorney Matt Newburg will discuss *People v. McQueen* and other medical marijuana cases headed to the State Supreme Court.

“House Bill 5580 gives solid direction to municipalities that choose to regulate public, commercial activity under the Medical Marijuana Act according to the needs of each community,” according to Chad Carr, Director of Birmingham Compassion Club.

Callton is a practicing chiropractor who takes a health care perspective on medical marijuana, and has been disillusioned by the many stories of patients’ access to medicine being made more difficult or impossible due to misinterpretations of the law.

“I wanted to help give some direction to municipalities as to how to zone for provisioning centers, if their community can benefit from them,” Callton said.

“I also want to help define a safe place where the medicine, in excess of what is immediately needed by the caregivers for their patients, can be taken to and distributed to those in need.”

The bill is slated to be brought to the House Judiciary Committee in the fall session, officials said.