
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 191

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PSYCHEDELIC-ASSISTED THERAPY PILOT PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill expands eligibility for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) psychedelic-assisted therapy (PAT) pilot program by allowing Connecticut residents to participate who (1) are at least age 18 and (2) meet clinical eligibility criteria established by the institutional review board of the medical school who administers it (currently Yale University). Currently, the pilot program is limited to Connecticut veterans, retired first responders, and direct health care workers. As under current law, participants must receive MDMA- (i.e. “Molly” or “ecstasy”) or psilocybin-assisted therapy as part of a research program approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The bill also eliminates the current requirement that DMHAS end the pilot program if the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) approves MDMA and psilocybin for medical use (the DEA has not yet done so).

MDMA is a synthetic psychoactive drug, and psilocybin occurs naturally in some mushrooms. Both act as serotonin receptor agonists, and MDMA also acts as a reuptake inhibitor of serotonin and dopamine.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 8 (03/02/2026)