# California Senate Bill to Legalize Psychedelic Therapy Stalls



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**SACRAMENTO—** The attempt to legalize psychedelic-assisted therapy in California has stalled as Senate Bill 1012, introduced by Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), failed to advance past the Senate Appropriations Committee. This decision came on Thursday when Democrats controlling the committee culled several bills, citing significant budget constraints.

Sen. Wiener emphasized the long-term efforts, stating, “We’ve been working for four years to legalize access to psychedelics in California... it’s disappointing for this bill not to move forward.” The proposed bill aimed to regulate the use of psychedelics for therapeutic purposes, supported by various groups, including veterans.

The estimated cost of implementing the bill was projected to be in the low millions, involving the creation of new government entities to oversee the licensing and regulation of psychedelic therapy facilitators.

Opponents, including the California State Sheriffs’ Association, expressed concerns about government endorsement of mind-altering substances. Some medical professionals also questioned the existing scientific backing for therapeutic psychedelic use, suggesting the evidence does not yet support widespread access. Additionally, the Senate Business and Professions Committee raised concerns regarding the creation of a new professional category for psychedelic therapy facilitators and the lack of provisions for local control over such treatments.

Previously, Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill to decriminalize the personal use and possession of psychedelics. He encouraged legislators to work on establishing regulated treatment guidelines, which influenced the reintroduction of measures in a new form by Sen. Wiener.

Jared Moffat from the Alliance for Safer Use of Psychedelics lamented the missed opportunity, expressing that California could have set a nationwide precedent. The debate on legalizing psychedelic therapy in California continues, with supporters seeking incremental legislative steps.