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## Illinois Senate committee OKs plan to use marijuana as medicine

03/05/2008 17:24:05

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, IL - Illinois has taken a step toward legalizing the medical use of marijuana.

A state Senate committee Wednesday voted 6-4 to let people with debilitating illnesses like AIDS or cancer ease their symptoms with marijuana.

Democratic Senator John Cullerton says the vote offers "a glimmer of hope" that his legislation will be approved by the entire General Assembly.

The committee approved similar legislation last year, but it was voted down by the full Senate.

The measure would let people possess marijuana if they have a doctor's permission. They could have up to eight cannabis plants and 2 1/2 ounces of usable marijuana at a time.

Violating the law would carry tougher penalties than simple marijuana possession.

Technically, Illinois authorized medical marijuana in 1978. But implementation was left to the Public Health Department and it never took action, so the law has been in limbo.

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ENLARGE

A state Senate committee voted 6-4 to let people with debilitating illnesses ease their symptoms with marijuana.

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Quote

Symbol  Name

<b>DJIA</b>	<b>12309.54</b>	<b>93.14</b>	<b>0.76%</b>
Nasdaq	12400		
S&P 500	12300		
Russell	12200		
	12100		

11 1 3

10-YR Note 1:36 pm

Source: Dow Jones, Reuters  
**MARKETS DATA CENTER**

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 In the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Japan's Hiroshi Hoketsu placed a disappointing 40th in equestrian jumping. Now, the 67-year old retiree is back for another shot at a medal in the obscure sport of horse ballet. WSJ's Charles Forelle reports. (March 30)

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