

**Public Policy Position
HB 6020**

The Cannabis Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 483 members. The Cannabis Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Cannabis Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Cannabis Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 14 members. On June 1, 2026, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 12 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 1 member did not vote.

Other – Technical/Information Input

Explanation:

The Cannabis Law Section's position on HB 6020 is provided in the attached letter.

Contact Person: Brett M. Gelbord

Email: bgelbord@dykema.com



CANNABIS LAW SECTION

June 1, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Schmaltz
Chair, House Committee on Families and Veterans
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Schmaltz and Members of the Committee,

The Entheogenics¹ Subcommittee of the Cannabis Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan (the “Subcommittee”) respectfully submits the following testimony regarding HB 6020 concerning research into ibogaine.

First the Subcommittee would like to thank the Michigan State House of Representatives for taking up the matter of psychedelic access. This is an important issue that holds great promise for the citizens of Michigan. Indeed, for many Michiganders, this issue is a matter of life and death. Which is why the Subcommittee would like to raise some concerns with the scope and focus of HB 6020, which proposes to establish a research fund for a consortium of organizations to investigate the benefits of ibogaine assisted therapy for certain serious mental health conditions.

The Subcommittees’ concerns flow from some basic facts about ibogaine. First, ibogaine comes from the roots of the mature iboga tree, which only grows in central Africa. It is a slow-growing jungle tree, and the conditions needed for it to grow properly are not easily replicable in a greenhouse, if at all. And, even if it were easily replicable, an iboga tree needs to be seven to ten years old before the root structure is robust enough to sustainably provide useful amounts of the raw material needed to make ibogaine. Alternatively, the ibogaine molecule can be synthesized in a lab, however, that has only recently been accomplished, and the history associated with synthetic versions of naturally occurring plant molecules is middling at best and catastrophic at worst (see the opioid epidemic, which was exacerbated by synthetic versions of drugs originally naturally derived from certain poppy flowers). As a result, HB 6020, if passed, would lock Michigan in to a \$50 million research project that is narrowly focused on an extremely limited resource that comes from conflict-stricken parts of Africa or relies on unproven synthetic versions of that naturally occurring molecule.

¹ Entheogens are a subset of naturally occurring psychedelic substances.

June 2, 2026
The Honorable Kathy Schmaltz
Chair, House Committee on Families and Veterans

Second, as a psychedelic therapeutic, ibogaine, while powerful, has not been shown to be useful for the treatment of as wide a range of mental health conditions as have other, much more readily available and less ethically fraught psychedelic substances, like psilocybin. If the goal of this legislation is to help as many Michiganders as possible who are dealing with immediate and life threatening mental health conditions, HB 6020, does not go far enough in addressing the full spectrum of mental health and substance use disorders, nor incorporate the substantial body of existing research needed to achieve the objective. There are decades of research establishing the wide set of use cases for other psychedelic substances freely available from Johns Hopkins University and Imperial College in London.

Texas passed similar legislation earlier this year. In light of that, there is no need for Michigan to rush into legislation in an attempt to gain any benefits associated with being the first-mover in the space. Which is a good thing, because there are other areas of psychedelic policy reform where Michigan can gain those advantages, while benefitting from the lessons being learned in other states that have partially addressed the issue of psychedelic access. If the Michigan legislature wants to make meaningful impact on addiction, depression, PTSD, and the broader challenges commonly associated with our our nation's "mental health crisis," HB 6020, as drafted, addresses only a portion of the broader need given the natural limitations of ibogaine. The Subcommittee hopes that the Michigan Legislature will consider revising the bill to create a framework for access to psychedelic substances that are more readily available and that have already been shown to effectively treat a broader range of mental health and substance use disorders than ibogaine.

The Subcommittee is well-versed in the nuances of psychedelic policy reform and stands ready to be a resource on this issue to this honorable institution. Thank you, again, for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Brett M. Gelbord, Chairman
The Entheogenics Subcommittee
of the Cannabis Law Section
of the State Bar of Michigan