



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

May 10, 2023

To the Honorable President and Members,  
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13,  
Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5263 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to access to psilocybin services by individuals 21 years of age  
and older."

This bill takes important additional steps in exploring and understanding the potentials of  
psilocybin by continuing and supplementing the Health Care Authority's existing task force  
and by establishing a pilot program through the University of Washington.

Psilocybin has been shown to have the potential for use as a therapeutic for certain diagnosed  
clinical conditions, and I appreciate the need to find new treatment options for  
Washingtonians.

Sections 1, 2, and 3 detail the intent and purpose of the bill and also establish a short title for  
the legislation. However, changes were made to the legislation during the legislative process  
and these sections no longer align with the bill's content.

Section 4 establishes a psilocybin advisory board but does not specify the work that the board  
would be directed to undertake. In last year's budget, the Legislature established a task force to  
begin discussing psilocybin as a treatment, and that task force remains in place but has yet to  
complete its work. This advisory board's role is unclear while the existing task force continues  
its work. I encourage the Legislature, upon completion of the final report from the task force,  
to consider appropriate next steps for psilocybin treatment in Washington.

Section 5 establishes an interagency workgroup between the Department of Health,  
Department of Agriculture, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board to report to the advisory board  
established in section 4. Without the establishment of the advisory board, this interagency  
workgroup has no role. However, I understand the value of having our state agencies work  
together to understand what would be necessary for the state to consider advances in allowing  
psilocybin therapy. For that reason, I am directing the Department of Health, Department of  
Agriculture, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board to work together to identify what would be  
needed, including necessary public health safeguards and information technology systems, to  
consider allowing psilocybin treatment in Washington state.

Section 7 requires the Department of Health to post to their webpage certain information about  
psilocybin therapy and it also provides extensive authority for the agency to adopt rules and

carry out powers related to psilocybin services. This bill does not establish a system for psilocybin services in Washington and therefore such authorities for the Department of Health are not needed to protect public health and safety.

Section 10 requires the Liquor and Cannabis Board to cooperate with the Departments of Health and Agriculture and for the Department of Agriculture to cooperate with Department of Health. This bill does not establish any activities for these agencies to engage in that may require cooperation as contemplated.

Section 11 prohibits these same state agencies from refusing to fulfill their duties established in this legislation on the basis that psilocybin remains prohibited by federal law. However, there are no required responsibilities for these agencies that would not be able to be conducted due to the prohibition of psilocybin at the federal level.

Section 13 establishes a new chapter for sections 1 through 5. However, sections 1 through 5 are no longer needed.

For these reasons I have vetoed Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13 of Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5263.

With the exception of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13, Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5263 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Inslee  
Governor