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Cannabis Legislation Passes Legislature despite Bipartisan Opposition *Senate Republicans Respond*

SANTA FE – Despite bipartisan opposition in the Senate and House of Representatives, legislation to legalize cannabis in New Mexico cleared the Legislature Wednesday evening. Senate Republicans and Democrats raised serious concerns about the 179-page cannabis bill crafted behind closed doors with the Governor. Nevertheless, House Bill 2 ultimately prevailed on a 22-15 vote with all Republicans voting against the measure.

“Prior to the vote this evening, a majority of Democrats and Republicans agreed on one thing – that House Bill 2 is deeply flawed and will lead to some serious and dangerous consequences,” **said Senator Cliff Pirtle** (District 32-Chaves, Eddy, and Otero). “Despite these problems, the bill passed with assurances that we will fix the bill later. This is a horrible way to govern and I fear we may come to regret this decision sooner rather than later.”

“After usurping the traditional legislative process, the Governor ultimately got exactly what she wanted and demonstrated the power she now yields over the Legislature,” added **Senator Greg Baca** (District 29-Bernalillo and Valencia). “Tonight, Republicans and Democrats raised legitimate concerns about the societal impacts this bill will have on New Mexico. Those concerns were ultimately ignored and the supporters now own the outcome of this rushed and irresponsible legislation.”

House Bill 2 will now return to the House of Representatives for concurrence with the Senate amendment. If the House concurs, the bill will head to the Governor for her signature.

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