Rhode Island Allows 3 Stores to Sell Medical Marijuana

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A maximum of three “compassion centers” in Rhode Island are permitted to distribute marijuana for medical purposes, thanks to a bill recently approved by the state’s House of Representatives, The Associated Press reports. Marijuana has been proved to help alleviate certain HIV medication side effects—including nausea—as well as stimulate appetites in HIV-positive people.

In 2006, Rhode Island authorized patients to possess small amounts of marijuana, but this is the first time lawmakers have legalized selling the drug. The medicinal use of marijuana is allowed in 12 other states, but only California and New Mexico have created dispensaries.

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