

NEWS:

Expanding the Use of Medical Marijuana

AUGUST 30, 2018 –Delawareans suffering from glaucoma or chronic debilitating migraines may now find relief through the use of marijuana.

Earlier this week, Gov. John Carney signed [House Bill 374 \(as amended\)](#) into law. The new statute expands the scope of the Delaware Medical Marijuana Act to add the two conditions to those eligible to be treated with cannabis.



Glaucoma is a disease of the optic nerve that can result in vision loss and blindness. According to the [American Glaucoma Society](#), lowering intraocular pressure (IOP) in those with glaucoma can prevent optic nerve damage or slow the progress of existing damage. Marijuana has proven effective at reducing IOP.

"Now, I have more hope to retain my eyesight. Not just me, but people throughout Delaware," said Neal J. Pollock, a Rehoboth Beach glaucoma sufferer who inspired Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf to author the legislation.

The measure passed the House and Senate without opposition. Among its co-sponsors were: State Reps. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton (in photo, right) ; Deborah Hudson, R-Fairthorne; and Bobby Outten, R-Harrington.

"Medical marijuana has the potential to be my generation's penicillin," Rep. Spiegelman said. "We have not yet begun to hack its potential to improve lives."

Under the existing law, [patients must apply](#) for a medical marijuana card. The process includes certification by a physician of the patient's qualifying condition.