



Public Affairs

Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act

The proposed initiative filed by the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol and sponsored by the Marijuana Policy Project would legalize the possession and consumption of marijuana by persons who are 21 years of age or older. Specifically the initiative would:

- Allow persons 21 years of age or older to legally possess and privately consume up to one ounce of marijuana.
- Permit persons 21 years of age or older to grow up to six marijuana plants in a person's residence for personal use.
- Create the Department of Marijuana Licenses and Control (Department) consisting of a Marijuana Commission and the Office of the Director of Department to regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, testing, transportation and sale of marijuana.
- Limit the number of marijuana retailer licenses the Department may issue until September 21, 2021.
- Allow local governments to regulate and provide limitations on marijuana businesses.
- Establish a 15% tax on the sale of retail marijuana sales and sets licensing fees.
- Stipulate the revenues from the tax and fees be expended as follows:
 - For costs incurred by the Department and the Department of Revenue needed to enforce the Act.
 - One-half of all licensing fees received from marijuana establishments in a locality to that locality.
 - All excess monies in the following manner:
 - 40% to school districts and charter schools based on proportional student count for education related expenses.
 - 40% to school districts and charter schools the certify funds will be used to fund full-day kindergarten instruction.
 - 20% to the Arizona Department of Health Services for the Arizona Poison Control System including public education campaigns regarding the relative harms of alcohol, marijuana and other substances.

Arguments from the Proponents	Arguments from the Opposition
Decreases spending on criminal justice costs related to marijuana enforcement.	Limits an employer's ability to prevent employees from working while impaired by marijuana consumed outside the workplace.
Deposits revenues into education and public health education programs.	Could expose employers to litigation for trying to impose workplace restrictions.
Allows localities to impose limits on where and when Marijuana business can operate.	The social and economic benefits outweigh any benefits.