

Criminal Justice



- ▶ Prohibition has disproportionately affected communities of color and puts people in the criminal justice system unnecessarily.
- ▶ In Minnesota, black people are nearly EIGHT times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white people, despite similar rates of use.
- ▶ People who have been arrested, charged, or imprisoned for marijuana-related offenses have a harder time securing housing, jobs, loans, and stability for their families.

Prohibition Fails



- ▶ Prohibition has been a monumental failure. It has wasted billions of dollars in public resources, and has not kept cannabis out of consumers' hands, away from children, or improved the safety of our communities.
- ▶ Not only has prohibition failed to accomplish any of its purported purposes, it has also created an incredible strain on our law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

Economic Opportunity



- ▶ Minnesota can use the hundreds of millions in revenue dollars that cannabis taxation will create to fund substance use disorder treatment, public safety, economic development, and more.
- ▶ The projected revenue from cannabis taxation in Minnesota is over \$150,000,000 in the first full biennium following legalization.
- ▶ The cannabis industry can create thousands of new jobs, including in areas of the state that need new economic opportunities

Health & Safety



- ▶ It is impossible to lethally overdose on cannabis.
- ▶ Rates of opioid addiction have plummeted in states that have legalized cannabis. We owe it to our vets, seniors, laborers, and other community members to make available a safe and effective alternative to opioids for pain management.
- ▶ Over two million prescriptions were written for opioid drugs in Minnesota in 2020, resulting in 3,990 non-fatal overdoses and 678 overdose deaths.

Legalization History

- ▶ 2017: First bills introduced by DFL members in House of Representatives.
- ▶ 2019: GOP-controlled Senate holds a hearing on full-legalization to 'kill the bill' and hasn't addressed the issue since.
- ▶ 2019: Gov. Walz orders administration agencies to prepare and plan for full legalization.
- ▶ 2020: Rep. Ryan Winkler (D-Golden Valley) introduces comprehensive legalization legislation, and travels the state on a "Be Heard on Cannabis" tour collecting insight from stakeholders across the state.
- ▶ 2021: DFL-controlled House holds 12 hearings on HF600, a bill to legalize cannabis. HF600 passed the DFL-controlled House with a bipartisan vote of 72-61, five Republicans supported final passage.

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