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Cannabis According To The Law

History of Cannabis



History of Cannabis

- Cannabis has a long and colorful history. The use of cannabis originated in central Asia or western China. Cannabis has been used for its alleged healing properties for millennia.
- The first documented case of its use dates back to 2800 BC, when it was listed in the Emperor Shen Nung's (regarded as the father of Chinese medicine) pharmacopoeia.
- Therapeutic indications of cannabis are mentioned in the texts of the Indian Hindus, Assyrians, Greeks and Romans.
- Source: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/lambert/medicinal-cannabis/history-of-cannabis.html>

History of Cannabis

- In the U.S., cannabis was widely utilized as a patent medicine during the 19th and early 20th centuries, described in the United States Pharmacopoeia for the first time in 1850.
- After the Mexican Revolution of 1910, Mexican immigrants flooded into the United States, bringing with them the recreational use of marijuana. The drug became associated with the immigrants and the fear and , in turn, prejudice about the newcomers became associated with marijuana.
- Anti-drug campaigners warned against the encroaching "Marijuana Menace". During the Great Depression, massive unemployment and increased public resentment and fear of Mexican immigrants escalated public and governmental concern about the potential problem of marijuana. By 1931, 29 states had outlawed marijuana.

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- Reefer Madness came out in 1936. The film spread misinformation and lies about cannabis to the entire nation.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXtumnTN6zg>
- In 1937, Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act, effectively criminalizing marijuana. Meanwhile the New York Academy of Medicine issued an extensive report declaring marijuana did not induce violence, or insanity, or lead to addiction or other drug use.
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- In the 1950s, federal laws which set mandatory sentences for drug-related offenses were enacted. Yet in the 1960s a cultural climate shift led to more lenient attitudes towards marijuana. Again, reports commissioned by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson found that marijuana use did not induce violence or lead to use of heavier drugs.
- By 1970, Congress repealed most of the mandatory penalties for drug-related offenses. In 1972, the bipartisan Shafer Commission, appointed by President Nixon at the direction of Congress, considered laws regarding marijuana and determined that personal use of marijuana should be decriminalized. Nixon rejected the recommendation, but over the course of the 1970s, eleven states decriminalized marijuana and most others reduced their penalties.

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- However, in 1976 a parent's movement against marijuana began and was instrumental in affecting public attitudes which led to the 1980s War on Drugs. Mandatory sentences were re-enacted by President Reagan. The "three strikes you're out" policy, required life sentences for repeat drug offenders. The War on Drugs continued under President George Bush in 1989.
- Yet a major shift in public perception of marijuana was underway. In 1996 California passed Proposition 215 allowing for the sale and medical use of marijuana for patients with AIDS, cancer, and other serious painful diseases. Thus the tension between federal laws criminalizing marijuana and state laws permitting marijuana in certain circumstances began which continues today.

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Current Federal Policy on Cannabis

- While the vast majority of states have reformed cannabis laws, the federal government's position has remained largely unchanged since the early 1970's. Except in very rare circumstances, at the federal level, marijuana and marijuana products are illegal and subject to criminal law enforcement through the Drug Enforcement Agency, or DEA.
- The Compassionate Investigational New Drug program, established in 1978, allowed patients with serious medical conditions to receive a regular supply of cannabis from the federal government. The program was very limited, with only 13 patients receiving marijuana, which many considered to be of very low quality. The program does not allow any new patients but continues to operate, providing cannabis (grown at the University of Mississippi) for two individuals who remain part of the program.
- <https://www.mpp.org/policy/federal/federal-governments-medical-marijuana-program/>

Current Federal Policy on Cannabis

- The FDA has not approved the cannabis plant for any medical use. However, the FDA has approved several drugs that contain individual cannabinoids.
- Epidiolex, which contains a purified form of CBD derived from cannabis, was approved for the treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome or Dravet syndrome, two rare and severe forms of epilepsy.
- Marinol and Syndros, which contain dronabinol (synthetic THC), and Cesamet, which contains nabilone (a synthetic substance similar to THC), are approved by the FDA. Dronabinol and nabilone are used to treat nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy. Dronabinol is also used to treat loss of appetite and weight loss in people with HIV/AIDS.

Statement from President Biden on Marijuana Reform

- “As I often said during my campaign for President, no one should be in jail just for using or possessing marijuana. Sending people to prison for possessing marijuana has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit. Criminal records for marijuana possession have also imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities. And while white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates.” President Biden.

President Biden's Three Steps To Ending The Gov's Failed Approach

- “First, I am announcing a pardon of all prior Federal offenses of simple possession of marijuana. I have directed the Attorney General to develop an administrative process for the issuance of certificates of pardon to eligible individuals. There are thousands of people who have prior Federal convictions for marijuana possession, who may be denied employment, housing, or educational opportunities as a result. My action will help relieve the collateral consequences arising from these convictions.”
President Biden.

President Biden's Three Steps To Ending The Gov's Failed Approach

- “Second, I am urging all Governors to do the same with regard to state offenses. Just as no one should be in a Federal prison solely due to the possession of marijuana, no one should be in a local jail or state prison for that reason, either.” President Biden.

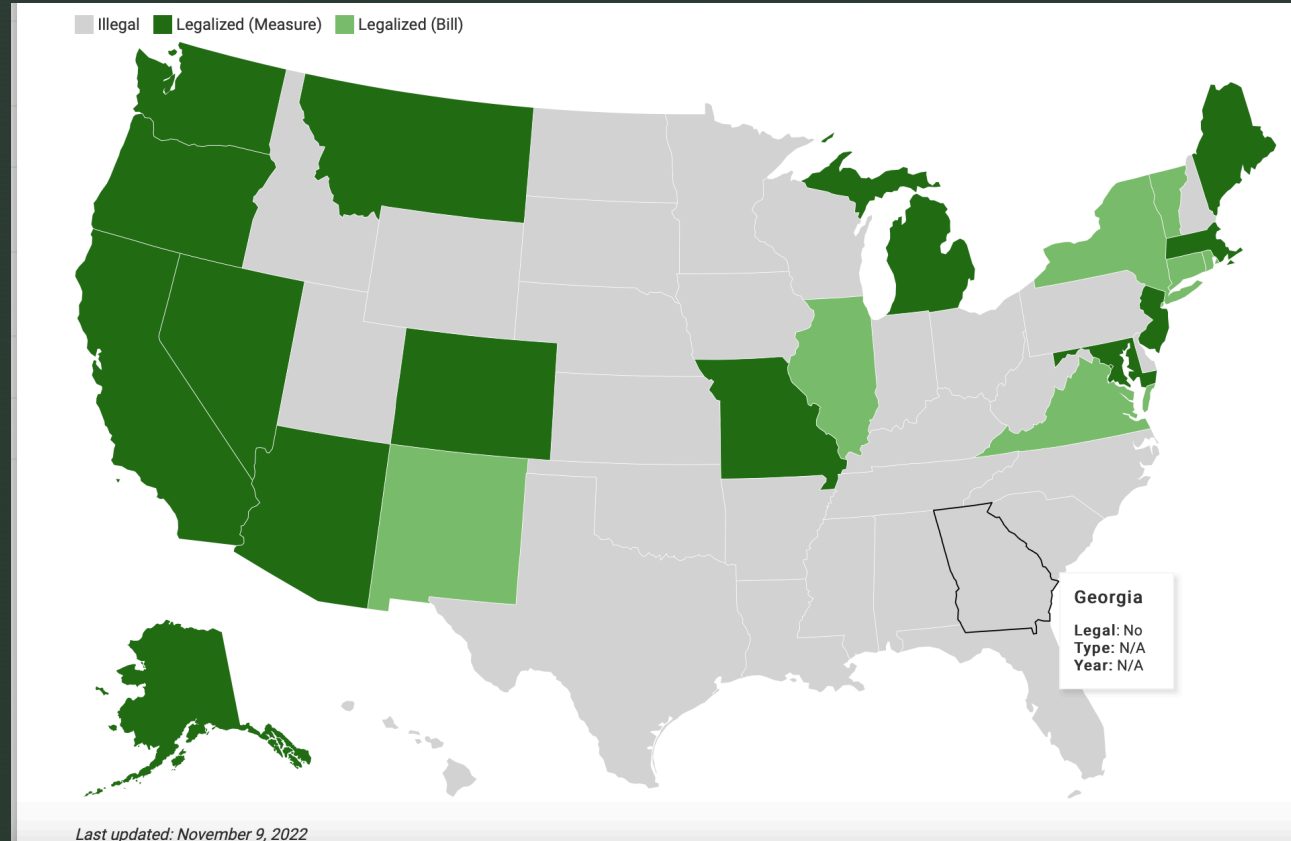
President Biden's Three Steps To Ending The Gov's Failed Approach

- “Third, I am asking the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to initiate the administrative process to review expeditiously how marijuana is scheduled under federal law. Federal law currently classifies marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, the classification meant for the most dangerous substances. This is the same schedule as for heroin and LSD, and even higher than the classification of fentanyl and methamphetamine – the drugs that are driving our overdose epidemic.” President Biden
- “Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It’s time that we right these wrongs.” President Biden

Current State Cannabis Laws



Current State Cannabis Laws Recreational



Current State Cannabis Laws

Recreational

- On Nov. 8, 2022, measures to legalize marijuana were on the ballot in Arkansas, Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Voters in Maryland and Missouri approved the measures, and voters in Arkansas, North Dakota, and South Dakota rejected the measures.
- As of November 9, 2022, 21 states and Washington, D.C., had legalized the possession and personal use of marijuana for recreational purposes, and 37 states and D.C. had legalized marijuana for medical purposes



EBCI's Medical Cannabis Operation







