

Cannabis legislative recommendations

Advancing public health, equity, and safety in cannabis policy

Effective July 1, 2022, state law changed to allow the processing and sale of Edible Cannabinoid Products (ECPs), hemp-derived extracts combined with food and beverages. This legislation lacks the regulatory framework needed when legalizing the growth, manufacture, and sale of adult use cannabis.

As the Minnesota legislature considers a regulatory framework, it is critical that it protect public health and safety, and advances social equity.

Support legislation that:

- Provides adequate implementation resources, effective state regulatory framework and oversight, and local licensing and enforcement framework for the safe growth, manufacture, and sale of legal cannabis products
- Decriminalizes cannabis possession and automatically expunge past criminal records for offenses linked to cannabis. Provides business opportunities for BIPOC entrepreneurs.
- Advocates for cannabis tax revenues to be used for robust surveillance, prevention education, enforcement programs, and treatment
- Emphasizes the policies that limit the time, place, and manner of retail, marketing, and use to prevent cannabis from exacerbating health disparities in critical areas like educational outcomes, low birth weight, cannabis use disorder, mental health or industry exploitation
- Provides protection to children, youth, and other vulnerable and marginalized populations through careful regulation of (1) the availability of and access to cannabis products; (2) advertising and marketing; (3) product potency, form, and characteristics; and (4) packaging and labeling
- Minimizes harm to the public through (1) effective prevention education, (2) protection of clean indoor air, (3) prevention of impaired driving, (4) adoption of policies to promote and protect health equity, and (5) investment in public health and safety programs
- Monitors patterns of cannabis use and related public health and safety outcomes through (1) population-based surveys, (2) syndromic surveillance, and (3) other data sources
- Includes public health and other multidisciplinary experts in official legalization discussions, guidance and ongoing oversight and prohibits conflicts of interest in regulatory bodies and advisory commissions

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