

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

DRUGS/CONTROLLED: Requests a study of the effects of legalizing recreational cannabis usage

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice or a  
3 subcommittee thereof to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of  
4 cannabis on the citizens of this state and to report its findings to the legislature prior  
5 to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, currently fourteen states and the District of Columbia have legalized the  
7 possession of cannabis by any person twenty-one years of age or older; and

8 WHEREAS, despite existing federal law prohibitions regarding the purchase and  
9 possession of cannabis, it appears that public opinion may be changing regarding the  
10 possession and recreational or therapeutic use of cannabis; and

11 WHEREAS, during the forty-nine years since the Louisiana Uniform Controlled  
12 Dangerous Substances Law was enacted, attitudes in Louisiana regarding the recreational  
13 or therapeutic use of cannabis have changed; and

14 WHEREAS, Act No. 874 of the 1991 Regular Session of the Legislature authorized  
15 physicians to prescribe marijuana for therapeutic use in patients suffering from certain  
16 types of medical conditions; and

17 WHEREAS, if the Louisiana Legislature wishes to consider the legalization of  
18 cannabis, that decision should be based upon facts which establish that the legalization of  
19 cannabis is in the best interest of the people of the state of Louisiana; and

1           WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the state of Louisiana to consider the legalization  
2 of cannabis; however, prior to legalizing cannabis, the Louisiana Legislature should consider  
3 many factors, including but not limited to the following:

4           (1) Establishing and maintaining procedures to regulate and produce cannabis.

5           (2) Establishing public safety protections for minors.

6           (3) Establishing public safety protections to identify and prosecute those who misuse  
7 legal cannabis.

8           (4) Creating rigorous testing and detailed labeling requirements.

9           (5) Providing equity and economic opportunities for the communities of Louisiana.

10          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives of the  
11 Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on Administration of Criminal  
12 Justice or a subcommittee thereof to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use  
13 of cannabis for the citizens of this state and to report its findings to the legislature prior to  
14 the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

15          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Administration of  
16 Criminal Justice or a subcommittee thereof shall work in conjunction with and obtain input  
17 from the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, the Louisiana  
18 District Attorneys Association, the Public Defender Board of Louisiana, the Louisiana  
19 Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Commission on Law  
20 Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, the Louisiana Public Defenders  
21 Association, the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Louisiana  
22 Association of Business and Industry, the office of alcohol and tobacco control, the office  
23 of the attorney general, and any other agencies or associations deemed appropriate by the  
24 committee.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 1 Original

2021 Regular Session

Bryant

Requests the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice or a subcommittee thereof to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of cannabis and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2022 R.S.