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DIGEST

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HB 243 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Newell

**Abstract:** Decriminalizes the possession and distribution of marijuana contingent upon legislative enactment of a statutory regulatory system and establishment of a sales tax and provides relative to applicability.

Present law provides for the regulation of controlled dangerous substances, and prohibits the possession, distribution, dispensing, or possession with intent to distribute or dispense marijuana.

Proposed law removes those criminal penalties contingent upon the legislature providing for a statutory regulatory system for the legal sale and distribution of marijuana and establishing a sales tax on those sales.

Provides that proposed law shall not apply to the present law offense of operating a vehicle while intoxicated (R.S. 14:98(A)(1)(d)(i), (ii), and (e)(i)), shall not prohibit any employer from enforcing or adopting reasonable zero tolerance policies or drug free workplace policies, and shall not be construed to prohibit any school policy, pursuant to present law (R.S. 17:416(C)(2)) from being enforced or adopted relative to drug free zones.

(Amends R.S. 40:966(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (D)(1); Repeals R.S. 40:964(Schedule I)(C)(19) and 966(C)(2) and (F))