

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature wishes to consider legalization of cannabis, a decision that is based upon the fact that legalization of cannabis is supported by the people of the state of Louisiana; and

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

- (1) Establishing and maintaining procedures to regulate and produce cannabis.
- (2) Establishing public safety protections for minors.

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

(4) Creating rigorous testing and detailed labeling requirements.

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

(6) Evaluating effects and impacts of potential legalization of cannabis on Louisiana's existing medical marijuana program and illicit cannabis markets.

(7) Evaluating best practices for potential tax structure, rates, and economic impacts on potential legal framework and illicit markets.

(8) Evaluating economic development, encouragement of private capitalization and investment, quality jobs created, and banking issues related to potential legalization of cannabis.

(9) Establishing a commission to appropriate funds generated from recreational cannabis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana 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 for the citizens of this state and to report its findings to the legislature at least fourteen days prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice or a subcommittee thereof shall work in conjunction with and obtain input from the chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or his designee; the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, or his designee; the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, or his designee; the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, or his designee; the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the medical marijuana cultivation business community; the medical marijuana pharmacy business community; Louisiana State University Agriculture Center; Southern University Agriculture Center; Voice of the Experienced; Louisiana Association of Business and Industry; Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement; Drug Policy Board; and the author of this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall work in conjunction with and obtain input from the states who have legalized recreational cannabis including but not limited to their findings regarding the following:

- (1) Establishing and maintaining procedures to regulate and produce cannabis.
- (2) Establishing public safety protections for minors.
- (3) Establishing public safety protections to identify and prosecute illicit cannabis markets and those who misuse legal cannabis.
- (4) Creating rigorous testing and detailed labeling requirements.
- (5) Providing equity and economic opportunities for the communities of Louisiana.
- (6) Evaluating effects and impacts of potential legalization of cannabis on Louisiana's existing medical marijuana program and illicit cannabis markets.
- (7) Evaluating best practices for potential tax structure, rates, and economic impacts on potential legal framework and illicit markets.
- (8) Evaluating economic development, encouragement of private capitalization and investment, quality jobs created, and banking issues related to potential legalization of cannabis.
- (9) Establishing a commission to appropriate funds generated from recreational cannabis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee, for the purposes of conducting its meetings and accomplishing its goals, shall be staffed by the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and staff of the House Fiscal Division.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES