

Massachusetts Recreational Cannabis Laws

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Initiative, also known as Question 4 was on the November 8, 2016, ballot in Massachusetts as an indirect initiated state statute. It was approved.

A "yes" vote supported this proposal to legalize marijuana but regulate it in ways similar to alcoholic beverages.

A "no" vote opposed this proposal to legalize recreational marijuana, keeping only medical marijuana legal.

Initiative design

Question 4 legalized and created a commission to regulate marijuana in Massachusetts. Previously, marijuana was only permitted for medicinal purposes. Under the new law, individuals at least 21 years old will be able to use it, grow it, and possess it. The measure stipulated that individuals could possess under ten ounces of marijuana inside their homes and under one ounce in public. They will also be able to grow up to six marijuana plants in their homes.

The measure created a regulatory structure called the

Cannabis Control Commission. This body oversees marijuana legalization and issue licenses to firms that seek to sell marijuana products.

Under the measure, retail marijuana will be subjected to the state sales tax with an additional 3.75 percent excise tax.

If it chooses, a local municipality may add another 2 percent tax. Revenue from excise taxes, license application fees, and fines for minor violations of this law will be placed in a Marijuana Regulation Fund, which will help to pay for administrative costs of the new law.

Marijuana legalization will take effect on December 15, 2016

The proposed law would permit the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana in limited amounts by persons age 21 and older and would remove criminal penalties for such activities. It would provide for the regulation of commerce in marijuana, marijuana accessories, and marijuana products and for the taxation of proceeds from sales of these items.

The proposed law would authorize persons at least 21 years old to possess up to one ounce of marijuana outside of their residences; possess up to ten ounces of marijuana inside their residences; grow up to six marijuana plants in their residences; give one ounce or less of marijuana to a

person at least 21 years old without payment; possess, produce or transfer hemp; or make or transfer items related to marijuana use, storage, cultivation, or processing.

The measure would create a Cannabis Control Commission of three members appointed by the state Treasurer which would generally administer the law governing marijuana use and distribution, promulgate regulations, and be responsible for the licensing of marijuana commercial establishments.

The proposed law would also create a Cannabis Advisory Board of fifteen members.

Once the law takes effect, residents who are at least 21-years-old will be able to have up to 10 ounces of marijuana inside their homes, and less than 1 ounce of marijuana in public. It will also allow residents to grow up to 6 marijuana plants inside their homes. **Retail sales aren't expected to begin until at least 2018.**

There's been a subculture of a marijuana subculture growing in the U.S. for years and you can find hints of it at local smoke shops. With the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in Massachusetts the hope is the taboo mentality will fade away.

A Cannabis Control Commission will be created to issue licenses to retailers who want to sell marijuana products.

Anyone who buys pot will have to pay at least a 12% tax; the states 6.25 sales tax along with an additional 3.75% excise tax. Cities and towns will be able to add another 2% tax if they want to.

A Marijuana Regulation Fund will be created with revenue from the excise tax, license application fees, and fines for minor violations to cover the costs related to the laws implementation.

Information on the Massachusetts cannabis industry will be handled by <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/medical-marijuana/>