

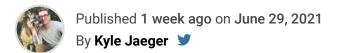






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California Lawmakers Approve Bil **Legalize Psychedelics Possession Committee**



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A California Assembly committee on Tuesday approved a Senate-passed bill to possession of psychedelics, clearing its first major hurdle in the chamber.

The Assembly Public Safety Committee advanced the legislation, sponsored by Sen. § Wiener (D), in a 5-3 vote.

This comes one day after the senator held a rally with military veterans, law enforcer health officials to build support for the proposal.

SB 519 would remove criminal penalties for possessing or sharing numerous psyched including psilocybin mushrooms, DMT, ibogaine, LSD and MDMA—for adults 21 and

The sponsor supported a committee amendment that removed ketamine from the lis psychedelics included in the reform. That's in addition to a series of technical revisio were made to the legislation.

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"Under SB 519, we will no longer arrest people and incarcerate them for the simple p possession of psychedelics for personal or shared use," Wiener told the committee or "That's really the question here: Do we believe that we should be arresting someone they possess psychedelics for personal use? I don't think we should. Frankly, I think I people don't think we should be doing that."



Wiener has described its prospects going forward as "very challenging," but he made at Monday's press event that it is a necessary policy change to advance mental health and end criminalization.

Under the measure, the state Department of Public Health would be required to estal working group "to study and make recommendations regarding possible regulatory s that California could adopt to promote safe and equitable access to certain substance permitted legal contexts." Those recommendations would be due by January 1, 2024.

For psilocybin specifically, the legislation would repeal provisions in California staturorhibit the cultivation or transportation of "any spores or mycelium capable of prodomushrooms or other material" that contain the psychoactive ingredient.

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Wiener said the reasoning behind that deletion was that the policy "ended up genera huge price tag" based on a fiscal analysis, but it could be addressed in separate legislathe main bill passes.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Psychedelic and Entheogen Academic Council (PI month, the senator said advancing the legislation would be first step toward decriminall currently illicit drugs. He reiterated that point on Monday, stating that "this bill is in the direction of ending the failed war on drugs."

He reiterated that position on Tuesday, saying he's "of the view that the war on drugs general has been a failure."

"We've been trying to arrest our way out of drug use and addiction for 50 years, and i

POLITICS SCIENCE & HEALTH CULTURE BUSINESS VIDEO NEWSLETTER > BI addicted—not to psychederics, because these are generally not addictive, but to other

While the bill is being described by lawmakers and advocates as simple "decriminaliz the official legislative analysis of the proposal states that it would "make lawful" the possession and social sharing of these substances.

If the bill does ultimately clear the Assembly, it still remains unclear whether **G**ov. Governor (D) would sign it—though the governor has long been an outspoken critic of on drugs.

Wiener backed the new ketamine-related amendment in an effort to build support fo legislation.

"There are disagreements within the psychedelic world on it," the senator said earlie month in a meeting with activists. "My view as you keep things in until you have to n give, and that's one that we could potentially give on. You don't want to spontaneous things without getting some ability to move the bill forward as a result."

Mescaline, a psychoactive compound derived from peyote and other cacti, is ar controversial psychedelic.

It was specifically excluded from the bill's reform provisions in peyote-derived form, possession of the compound would be allowed if it comes from other plants such as "Bolivian Torch Cactus, San Pedro Cactus, or Peruvian Torch Cactus."

That decision on the peyote exclusion was informed by native groups who have stron pushed back against decriminalizing the cacti for conservationist reasons and becaus sacred value for their communities.

Meanwhile, a group of California activists announced plans earlier this year to put ar to legalize the use and retail sale of psilocybin on the state's 2022 ballot. That group, Decriminalize California, said that it would first work to convince lawmakers to pursuand then take the issue directly to the people if the legislature fails to act.

The psychedelics effort in the California legislature, which Wiener first previewed ba

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The Northampton, Massachusetts City Council passed a resolution in April to deprior enforcement of laws against the possession, use and distribution of a wide range of psychedelics such as psilocybin and ayahuasca. It's the third city in the state to advant policy change, following Somerville and Cambridge.

These are some of the latest iterations of a national psychedelics reform movement t spread rapidly since Denver became the first city to decriminalize psilocybin mushro 2019.

Besides the cities in Massachusetts, four others—Oakland, Santa Cruz, Ann Arbor and Washington, D.C.—have also decriminalized possession of plant-and fungi psychedelics.

In Oregon, November's election saw the passage of a historic initiatives to legalize ps mushrooms for therapeutic purposes and more broadly decriminalize possession of a

The governor of Connecticut signed legislation this month that includes language the state to carry out a study into the therapeutic potential of psilocybin mush

Texas also recently enacted a bill to require the state study the medical benefits of psychedelics for military veterans.

A New York lawmaker introduced a bill this month that would require the state to est institute to similarly research the medical value of psychedelics.

In Oakland, the first city where a city council voted to broadly deprioritize criminaliz entheogenic substances, lawmakers approved a follow-up resolution in December that the policy change to be adopted statewide and for local jurisdictions to be allowed to healing ceremonies where people could use psychedelics.

After Ann Arbor legislators passed a decriminalization resolution last year, a county prosecutor recently announced that his office will not be pursuing charges over posse entheogenic plants and fungi—"regardless of the amount at issue."

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members said, as it stands, enacting a reform would be more better handled at the stands while entheogens remain strictly federally controlled.

Seattle lawmakers also recently sent a letter to members of a local task force focused opioid overdose epidemic, imploring the group to investigate the therapeutic potention psychedelics like ayahuasca and ibogaine in curbing addiction.

New Mexico Marijuana Legalization Law Officially Takes Effect

New Mexico's marijuana legalization law took effect on Tuesday, with limited personal possession and cultivation officially becoming legal for adults 21 and older. People can now lawfully possess up to two ounces of cannabis, 16 grams of concentrates and grow as many as six mature plants for personal use. But it will still take some ... Continue reading



Image courtesy of Kristie Gianopulos.

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Kyle Jaeger

Kyle Jaeger is Marijuana Moment's Sacramento-based senior editor. His work has also appeared VICE and attn.



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of runner Sha'Carri Richardson over a positive cannabis test. Separately, the White House now reportedly seeking a meeting with international sports regulators to discuss the possibility of a policy change.

Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Jamie Raskin (D-MD) recently sent a letter to U.S. athletics governing body on the penalty against Richardson, who admitted to using

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The suspension of U.S. runner Sha'Carri Richardson over a positive marijuana test I many to call for changes to Olympics rules—with even President Joe Biden, top White Hou officials and American sports regulators saying it might be time to reconsider punishing athletes for cannabis.

But how did the sports prohibition get imposed in the first place? Marijuana Moment spok the first president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to gain further insights into I the policy unfolded, which turns out to be the result of pressure from the U.S. itself.

Some of those who've defended the action against Richardson have made the case that, sin

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10 Senators Demand That Marijuana Businesses Be Allowed To Access Federal SBA Loans



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A group of 10 senators recently sent a letter to Appropriations Committee leadership, requesting that language allowing marijuana businesses to access loans and other aid thro

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freeing up SBA loans and disaster assistance for the industry is especially needed because funds "would fill gaps left by the private sector and help mitigate the effects of the COVID pandemic."

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