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POLITICS

California Senate Approves Bill To Possession Of Psychedelics Like P And LSD



Published 1 month ago on June 1, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



A bill to legalize possession of psychedelics in California was approved by the California Senate on Tuesday.



The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Scott Wiener (D), which previously cleared three committees, passed 21-16 on the floor.



If enacted into law, the bill would remove criminal penalties for possessing or sharing numerous psychedelics—including psilocybin mushrooms, DMT, ibogaine, LSD and MDMA for adults 21 and older.

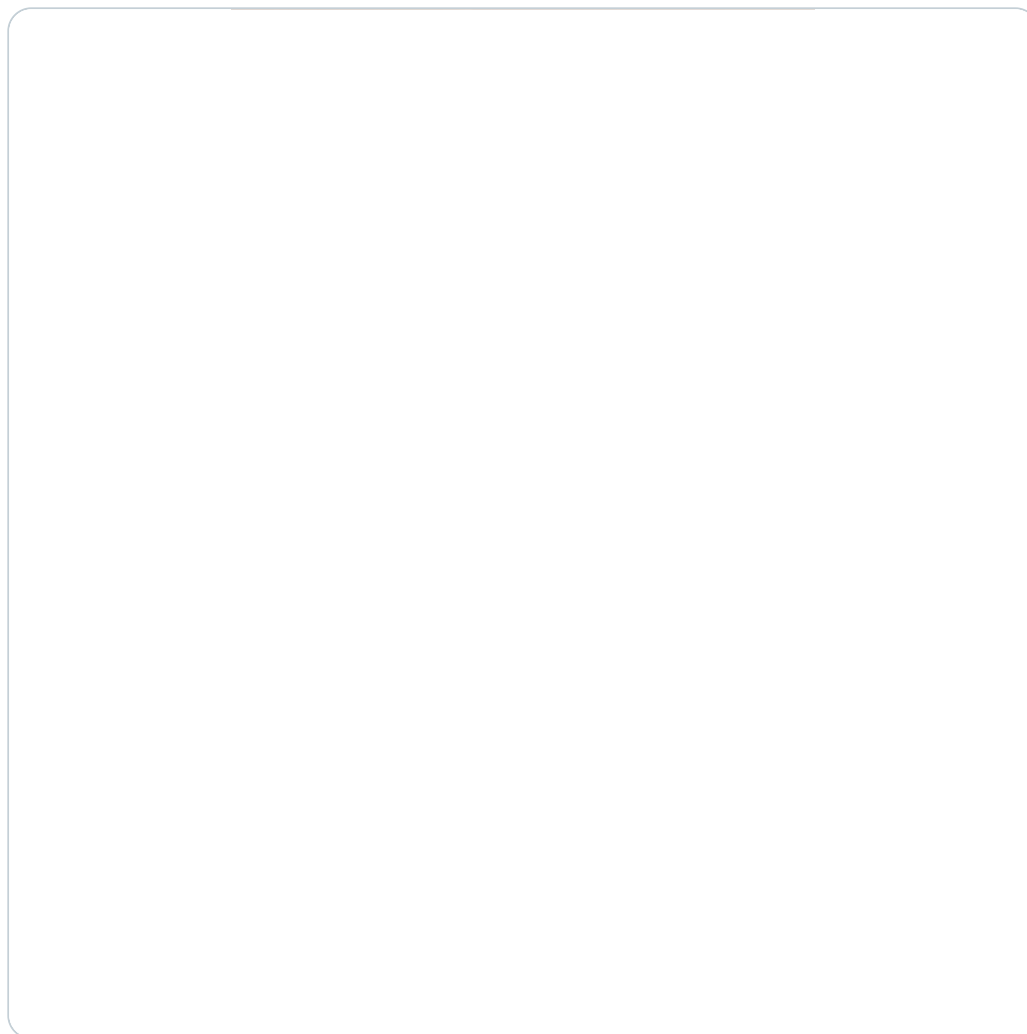
“This approach moves us away from the failed war on drugs, which was based on the flawed premise that criminalizing, arresting, prosecuting and imprisoning people for drugs will somehow deter their use and will somehow improve public safety,” Wiener said prior to the vote. “If there’s anything we’ve learned from the past half-century it’s that throwing people in jail for using drugs doesn’t stop drug use.”

 **Senator Scott Wiener** 
@Scott Wiener 

BREAKING: The CA Senate just passed our legislation to decriminalize psychedelics!

To everyone who made calls, shared, posted, told their stores: You did this! Let's keep up the fight & momentum. We need to end the failed War on Drugs.

Thank you, colleagues! [#SB519](#)



4:16 PM · Jun 1, 2021 from California State Capitol



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The measure originally included record sealing and resentencing provisions for people previously convicted of psychedelics possession offenses, but that language was removed last committee stop last month as part of an amendment from the sponsor.

Under the bill, state Department of Public Health would be required to establish a working group “to study and make recommendations regarding possible regulatory systems that California could adopt to promote safe and equitable access to certain substances in legal contexts.” Those recommendations would be due by January 1, 2024.

For psilocybin specifically, the legislation would repeal provisions in California statute that prohibit the cultivation or transportation of “any spores or mycelium capable of producing mushrooms or other material” that contain the psychoactive ingredient.

Mescaline derived from peyote is specifically excluded from the bill’s reform provisions “because of the nearly endangered status of the peyote plant and the special significance peyote holds in Native American spirituality.” This has been a contentious issue over which [advocates and indigenous groups divided](#) on where peyote should fall within a psychedelic reform model.

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Marijuana Moment is already [tracking more than 1,100 cannabis, psychedelics drug policy bills](#) in state legislatures and Congress this year. [Patreon supporters](#) pledging at least \$25/month get access to our interactive maps, charts and hearing calendar so they don’t miss any developments.

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

Meanwhile, a group of California activists announced plans earlier this year to put [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 pursue and 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 back in November](#), comes as activists are stepping up the push to enact psychedelics reform in cities in the state and across the country. The bill notes those efforts in an explanatory proposal.

The Northampton, Massachusetts City Council [passed a resolution](#) in April to deprioritize 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 advance policy change, following [Somerville](#) and [Cambridge](#).

These are some of the latest iterations of a national psychedelics reform movement that spread rapidly since [Denver became the first city to decriminalize psilocybin mushrooms in 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 initiative to [legalize psilocybin mushrooms for therapeutic purposes](#) and more broadly [decriminalize possession of a](#)

Texas lawmakers recently sent their governor a bill to require the state [study the medical benefits of psychedelics for military veterans](#).

In Oakland, the first city where a city council voted to broadly deprioritize criminalization of entheogenic substances, lawmakers [approved a follow-up resolution](#) in December that would allow the policy change to be adopted statewide and for local jurisdictions to be allowed to conduct 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 possible entheogenic plants and fungi—“regardless of the amount at issue.”

The Aspen, Colorado City Council [discussed the therapeutic potential of psychedelics](#) like psilocybin and proposals to decriminalize such substances at a meeting last month. Members said, as it stands, enacting a reform would be more better handled at the state level while entheogens remain strictly federally controlled.

Nevada Bill To Legalize Marijuana Consumption Lounges Heads To Governor's Desk

The Nevada legislature has sent a bill to legalize marijuana consumption lounges to the governor's desk. After clearing the Assembly last week, the legislation advanced through the Senate in a 17-3 vote on Monday. Sponsored by Assemblyman Steve Yeager (D), the bill would create two new licensing categories for cannabis businesses in the state. One would ... Continue reading



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Kyle Jaeger



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

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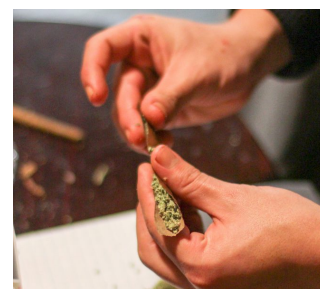
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CULTURE

Top U.S. Sports Regulator Says Marijuana Policy 'Must Change' As White House Pursues Global Meeting



Published 3 hours ago on July 9, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



The rules on marijuana for international athletes “must change,” the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said in a response letter to members of Congress on Friday following the suspension of runner Sha’Carri Richardson over a positive cannabis test. Separately, the White House is 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 the U.S. athletics governing body on the penalty against Richardson, who admitted to using marijuana in a legal state after learning about her mother’s death. Earlier this week, USAF expressed sympathy for the runner and indicated that it may be time for a reevaluation of

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How U.S. Bullying In The 1990s Led To The Olympics Marijuana Ban Behind Richards Suspension



Published 6 hours ago on July 9, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



The suspension of U.S. runner Sha'Carri Richardson over a positive marijuana test has led many to call for changes to Olympics rules—with even President Joe Biden, top White House 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 spoke with the first president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to gain further insights into how 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, since

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



Published 7 hours ago on July 9, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



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 through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) be included in an upcoming spending bill report.

The letter, led by Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), describes the unique financial barriers that state legal cannabis companies face while marijuana remains federally illegal. The senators said 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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