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POLITICS

New York Bill Would Create State-Sponsored Psychedelics Research



Published 1 month ago on June 2, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



A New York lawmaker introduced a bill on Tuesday that would require the state to establish an institute to research the therapeutic potential of psychedelics.



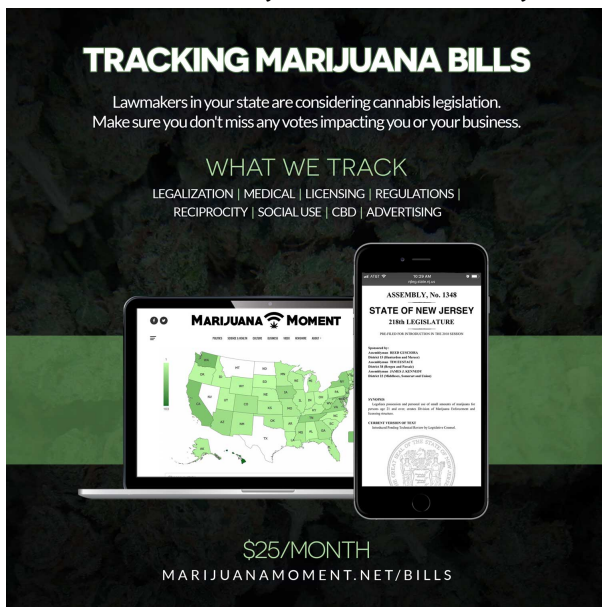
The legislation, sponsored by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal (D), would create a state-sanctioned research institute to explore the therapeutic potential of certain psychedelics. It also requires regulators to issue recommendations on the medical value of such substances for the treatment of conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“There is growing evidence to suggest that psychedelics, including psilocybin, can be a useful tool in treating symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and helping individuals recover from a substance use disorder,” a memo from Rosenthal about the bill states. “Psychedelics provide a host of benefits without the same risk of overdose or dependency that other medications may provide.”

“This bill would provide New York State the opportunity to research the use of psychedelics and the many benefits they can provide,” it continues.

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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 [calendar](#) so they don't miss any developments.



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The institute, contracted by the state, would be mandated to investigate the medical use of substances including “ibogaine, LSD, psilocybin and certain other psychedelic drugs” for the treatment of addiction for “people struggling with a substance use disorder, including methamphetamine, opioids, and other addictive substances.”

Researchers would be required to coordinate clinical trials into the therapeutic potential of these substances, develop training programs for professionals to conduct the research, and establish an advisory board to “provide oversight in proposed clinical trials of psychedelic compounds, particularly to assist principal investigators at sites lacking formal institutional review board oversight.”

Interestingly, the [legislation](#) stipulates that, if state regulators are unable to obtain sufficient amounts of psychedelics through a licensing agreement with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) due to the federal agency’s “refusal or failure” to cooperate with the state program, they must contract with a facility “with the available source and obtain the drugs without a DEA license.”

The legislation, which has been referred to the Assembly Standing Health Committee, is the latest piece of psychedelics-specific legislation that's been filed by Rosenthal this session.

The legislator also introduced reform legislation in March that would amend state statutes removing psilocybin and psilocin—two of the main psychoactive ingredients in so-called magic mushrooms—from the state's list of controlled substances.

A separate proposal to decriminalize possession of all currently controlled substances introduced in the New York legislature this session.

New York City mayoral candidate Andrew Yang released a veterans plan last week that would provide legal medical access to psychedelics such as psilocybin and MDMA.

Meanwhile, in Texas, lawmakers recently sent a bill to similarly require the state to study the therapeutic potential of psychedelics to their governor's desk.

The California Senate on Tuesday approved a bill that would legalize the possession of psychedelics, including LSD, DMT and ibogaine.

This New York measure is one of the latest iterations of a the decriminalization move that's evolved since Denver became the first city in the U.S. to decriminalize psilocybin mushrooms in 2019 via a citizen initiative.

Seven cities—Oakland, Santa Cruz, Ann Arbor, Washington, D.C., Somerville, Cambria, and Northampton—have decriminalized possession of a broader collection of plant- and fungus-based psychedelics since Denver's move.

In Oregon, voters approved historic initiatives to legalize psilocybin for therapeutic purposes and decriminalize drugs more broadly in November. That action was referred to the New York legislature.

Amazon To Stop Testing Many Workers For Marijuana And Will Lobby Congress For Federal Legalization

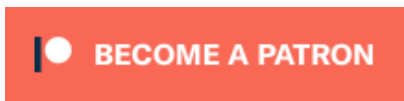
Amazon said on Tuesday that it will stop drug testing many of its workers for marijuana and will instead “treat it the same as alcohol use.” It is also formally joining the movement in support of cannabis legalization and will actively lobby Congress in support of legislation to end federal prohibition. “In the past, like ... Continue reading



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Photo courtesy of [Wikimedia/Workman](#).

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Kyle Jaeger



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

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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 to 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, si

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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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