POLITICS

Santa Cruz Removes Peyote And O **Mescaline-Containing Cacti From Psychedelics Decriminalization La**





- Nearly two years after Santa Cruz became the second California city—and the —to decriminalize a broad range of psychedelic plants and fungi, the City Council ha back the law's provision on peyote, effectively recriminalizing the cactus.
- Local lawmakers voted at a meeting last month to remove peyote and other mescalin containing cacti from the municipality's decriminalization policy, citing pushback from Indigenous people who consider the plant sacred.

Groups such as the National Council of Native American Churches, which uses peyot ceremonially, have been urging activists and lawmakers not to include peyote on lists allowed plants and fungi. The group said in a letter last year that the cactus should be "preserved for utilization by and for Indigenous peoples."

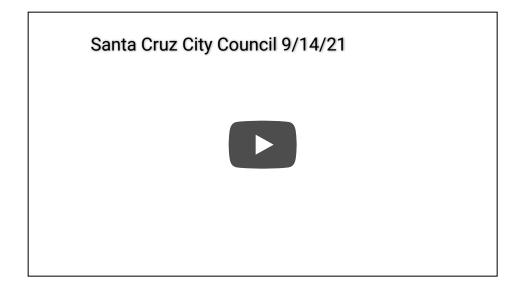
Even Decriminalize Santa Cruz (DSC), which helped pass the original measure that ir peyote, released a statement in which the group apologized "for our lack of cultural s

"We were insular in our activism and did not consider the harm we may cause to Indi communities who have been using this sacred plant for millennia," the group wrote.

"Fundamentally, DSC's intention is to do no harm and to protect others from harm," said in the public letter. "We recognize that the inclusion of the Peyote cacti in our reis dangerous because it may contribute to the ongoing Peyote crisis in the sacred gard South Texas for generations to come."

Peyote matures slowly and is currently categorized by conservationists as "vulnerable uptick in illicit harvesting as use becomes more mainstream. The cactus, native to Mean parts of the American Southwest, has no federal protection in the U.S., while in Mexi be harvested legally only by Indigenous groups.

The change in Santa Cruz removes peyote from the city's list of decriminalized substalling with "other entheogenic cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds such a mescaline."



Councilmembers Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson and Martine Watkins replied that Indige groups had indicated to them that the change should be made sooner rather than late

"I was reached out [to] by members in the community, and there was a request to mo forward urgently," Kalantari-Johnson said. "The Tribal community were really challed how the resolution was adopted in the past, and there was a sense of urgency to movthrough pretty quickly."

"They've provided extensive feedback," the councilmember added, "and we've taken feedback into what you see before you."

Councilmember Sandy Brown called for more input from stakeholders, but ultimately favor of the change.

"When I bring items similar to this, where I've been working with community groups been told, 'Well, we didn't hear anything about it, and we need to learn more." And t case where that is true to me... I think it's fair to ask for a continuation until or a continuation u at least, so we can have some of those conversations with folks in our commun

The Council didn't wait, however, ultimately approving the change without consideri proposed amendments from Cummings. "We already kind of did the legwork, essenti have some of the key folks have eyes on this," said Watkins.

Cummings, who hesitantly supported the change when it finally came to a vote, said "disappointed we couldn't work together productively."

Whether to include peyote in decriminalization policies is an ongoing controversy in psychedelics community, dividing groups that once worked together on drug reform.

Carlos Plazola, the chair of Decriminalize Nature National, criticized the change.

"It is unfortunate that the Santa Cruz City Council has taken a position to recriminal only peyote cultivation, but all cacti which contain mescaline," he told Marijuana Mc



Larry Norris, who co-founded Decriminalize Nature with Plazola, explained that the Cruz City Council's change seems to inadvertently criminalize other widely-grown ca species in California, such as the San Pedro cactus, which also contains mescaline. W growing San Pedro cactuses is generally allowed for ornamental purposes, it's illegal cultivate for consumption.

Plazola also told Marijuana Moment that Decriminalize Nature National intends to o similar carveout in Seattle, where the City Council is set to consider a resolution on M that would decriminalize psychedelic plants and fungi with the exception of peyote.

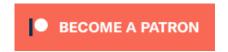
19-Year-Old New Hampshire Lawmaker Prepares Bills To Decriminalize Psilocybin And All Drugs

As New Hampshire lawmakers push to enact marijuana legalization in the state, broader drug policy reform may also be on the horizon, with one of the youngest state legislators in the U.S. now pushing for the decriminalization of psilocybin as well as all currently illicit substances. The Granite State's legislature is currently under GOP control, ... Continue reading



Photo courtesy of zapdelight

Marijuana Moment is made possible with support from readyou rely on our cannabis advocacy journalism to stay inforr please consider a monthly Patreon pledge.



Fate Is, Advocates Say

Measures Next Month



Ben Adlin



Ben Adlin is a Seattle-based writer and editor. He has covered cannabis as a journalist since 2011, most a senior news editor for Leafly.

YOU MAY LIKE

POLITICS

Federal Financial Regulator Urges Con To Act On Marijuana Banking Ahead Oh Inevitable Legalization (Op-Ed)





"Most experts agree the ultimate legalization of marijuana at the federal level is a foregon conclusion—at this point it's a matter of when, not if. Taking action to clarify banking rule for the legal cannabis industry now, rather than standing by while states construct an ad I system of conflicting banking rules, will go a long way toward easing that transition."

By Rodney E. Hood, National Credit Union Administration

The evolution of a legal marijuana industry over the last decade is among the most strikin social and cultural changes in recent memory. After decades of prohibition, today 36 state have legalized marijuana use for medical purposes, with 18 states permitting recreational



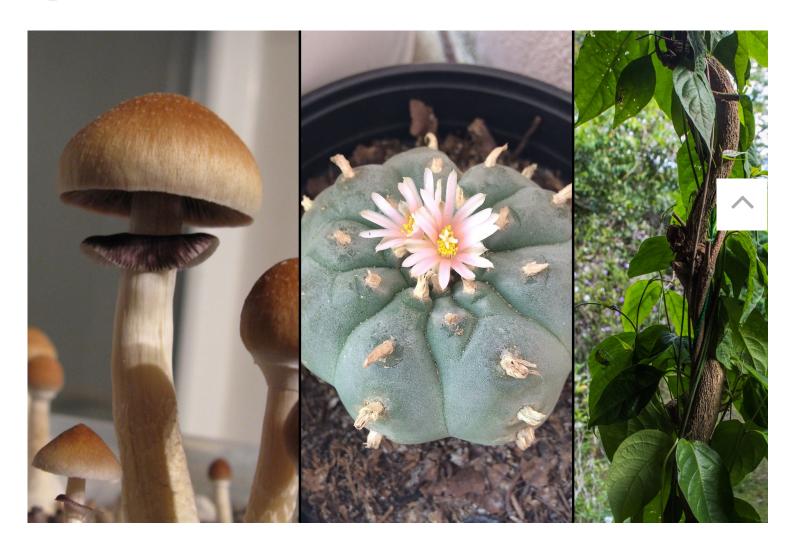
POLITICS

Congressman Says He'll Bring The Psychedelics Reform Movement To Capito Hill 'This Year'



Published 18 hours ago on October 6, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 🔰



A congressman said on Wednesday that he intends to help bring the psychedelics reform movement to Capitol Hill "this year."

POLITICS

SCIENCE & HEALTH

CULTURE

BUSINESS

VIDEO

NEWSLETTER -

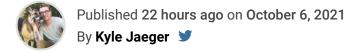
BII

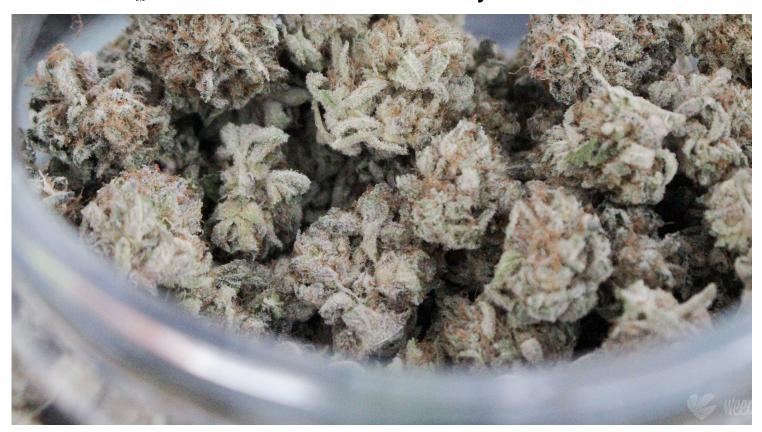
School's newly established research institute, the Project on Psychedelics Law and Regula (POPLAR).

CONTINUE READING

POLITICS

Bipartisan Pennsylvania Lawmakers Tean On Marijuana Legalization Bill As Push Fo Reform In The State Heats Up





Pennsylvania is becoming something of a hotbed for marijuana legalization legislat

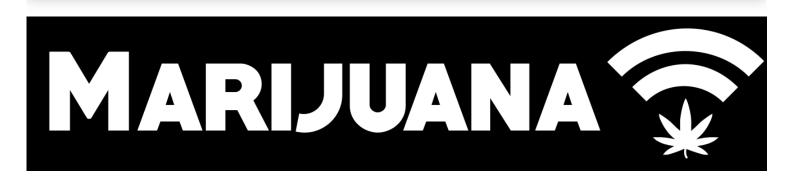
Democratic state lawmaker on Tuesday announcing his intent to file a reform bill the working on with a Republican senator who announced his support for the policy change a earlier.

There are also two other Pennsylvania legalization proposals that have been separately announced—one of which was formally introduced late last month and the other still bein drafted.

Rep. Amen Brown (D) is the latest legislator to enter the mix, issuing a cosponsorship mer

CONTINUE READING











ABOUT MARIJUANA MOMENT

SUBSCRIBE

SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTIS

All the cannabis news you need, all in one place. Copyright © 2017-2021 Marijua