

POLITICS

Controversial Kansas Lawmaker Files Bill To Legalize Psilocybin Possession And Cultivation



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By Kyle Jaeger



A Kansas lawmaker has filed a bill to legalize the low-level possession and cultivation of psilocybin mushrooms.

Rep. Aaron Coleman (D), a 21-year-old legislator who has been embroiled in controversy over a series of encounters with law enforcement, is sponsoring the legislation. It would remove criminal penalties for possessing up to 50 grams of psilocybin or psilocyn or cultivating the psychedelic compounds.

Under the proposal, possession of more than 50 grams but less than 100 grams would be a civil offense punishable by a maximum \$250 fine. Possessing more than 100 grams of the psychedelic would be considered a Class C misdemeanor, carrying a fine of up to \$500 and a one month in jail.

The legislation, titled the "Legalized Homegrown Psilocybin Mushroom Act of 2022," would amend state statute to make it so it "shall not be a violation" of state law "to cultivate psilocyn or psilocybin."



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enough on its own in the conservative legislature, the lawmaker's recent <u>arrests</u> over suspicion of driving while under the influence likely will not help him build support. The young lawmaker has also previously been <u>arrested</u> on domestic violence charges and faced accusations of abuse and harassment.

Coleman told Marijuana Moment in a phone interview last year that he was inspired to file his broad drug decriminalization bill by a <u>voter-approved initiative in Oregon</u> that ends the threat of jail time for simple drug possession.

The filing of the psilocybin measure also comes as Kansas Democratic leaders are pushing to let voters decide on legalizing medical and adult-use marijuana in the state.

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House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer (D) and Assistant Minority Leader Jason Probst (D) held a briefing on the plans this month, emphasizing that constituents are eager for the reform and so the proposed constitutional amendments would let them decide since the GOP-controlled legislature has failed to act.

The legislative leaders say they expect to have the full, or nearly full, support of the Democratic caucus behind these cannabis proposals as well as a separate Medicaid expansion constitutional amendment they're introducing.

Meanwhile, a medical cannabis bill that the House passed last year is stalled in the Senate, where a move by the body's president to redirect it to a committee he controls caused the cancellation of hearings before another panel that were scheduled for this week.

Gov. Laura Kelly (D), for her part, supports medical cannabis. She previously pushed a separate proposal that would legalize medical cannabis and use the resulting revenue to support Medicaid expansion, with Rep. Brandon Woodard (D) filing the measure on the governor's behalf.

Kelly has she said she wants voters to put pressure on their representatives to get the reform

The governor said in 2020 that while she wouldn't personally advocate for adult-use legalization, she wouldn't rule out signing the reform into law if a reform bill arrived on her desk.

That Darn Thing Passed' Before Leaving Office

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) is retiring from Congress at the end of this session, but he says that he's going to work to pass his marijuana banking bill before his time on Capitol Hill comes to an end. The congressman spoke to Colorado Public Radio last week about his decision not to run for reelection ... Continue reading



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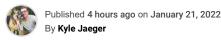
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Kyle Jaeger is Marijuana Moment's Sacramento-based senior editor. His work has also appeared in High Times, VICE and attn.

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Bipartisan Pennsylvania Senators File Bill To Let Medical Marijuana Patients Grow Their Own Plants







A bipartisan group of Pennsylvania senators introduced a bill on Thursday that would allow medical marijuana patients to cultivate their own plants for personal use.

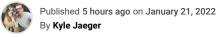
Sens. Dan Laughlin (R) and Sharif Street (D) first announced their intent to file the legislation in November, arguing that it is a necessary reform to ensure patient access by giving people a less costly alternative to buying from dispensaries.

Registered patients who are 21 and older, and who have been residents of the state for at least 30 days, could grow up to six plants in an "enclosed and locked space" at their residence, according to the text of the bill. They would be allowed to buy cannabis seeds from licensed

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Minnesota Democratic Leaders Preview Marijuana Legalization Plan For 2022







Minnesota Democratic leaders are preparing for another push to legalize marijuana this session, with the sponsor of the House-passed reform bill saying he will be reworking the legislation in an effort to build further support—though it continues to face an uphill climb in the GOP-controlled Senate.

House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler (D) and Senate Minority Leader Melisa Franzen (D) discussed the legislative strategy during a roundtable event hosted by the Minnesota Hemp Growers Cooperative on Wednesday.

Winkler said that his bill, which moved through 12 committees before being approved on the

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MARIJUANA TOMENT Controversial Kansas Lawmaker Files Bill To Legalize Psilocybin Possession And Cultiva



A Republican Nebraska senator introduced a bill on Thursday that ostensibly seeks to legalize medical marijuana in the state—but activists have raised concerns that the restrictive measure may be an attempt to subvert an effort to pass even broader patient protections on the 2022 ballot.

Sen. Mike Groene (R) filed the legislation, which would allow certain patients to buy and possess cannabis oils, pills and up to two and a half ounces of flower at a limited number of dispensaries. Smoking or inhaling marijuana would be banned, however, as would making edibles—so it's not clear how patients would consume the flower they could possess.

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