

POLITICS

# Oregon Lawmakers File Psilocybin Equity Bill As State Implements Legal Use Program



Published 4 weeks ago on January 28, 2022

By Kyle Jaeger



As Oregon prepares to implement a [first-of-its-kind legal psilocybin services program](#), lawmakers have taken a proactive step to ensure that equity is built into the policy change with a new bill.



The bicameral measure from Sen. Lawrence Spence (D) and Rep. Wlnsvey Campos (D) would create a 15-member “Task Force on Psilocybin Health Equity” comprised of lawmakers, regulators involved in psilocybin reform implementation, people with experience with psychedelics treatment, representatives of the indigenous community and more.

The group would be responsible for ensuring “equity and accessibility in Oregon’s developing psilocybin services,” the bill text says.

At a minimum, the task force would be required to explore barriers that people of color face in starting psilocybin-related businesses, training and retaining “culturally specific psilocybin service facilitators” and access to psychedelic sessions for low-income people and minority communities.

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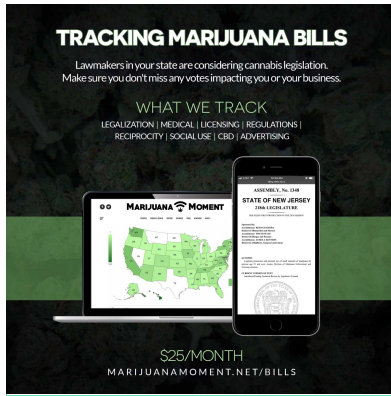
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10 hours ago

Top Federal Drug Agency Funds Research On Differing Legal Marijuana Regulatory Models: The notice is meant to "encourage grant applications on the effects of changing cannabis laws and policies in the US and globally."

<https://www.marijuanamoment.net/top-federal-drug-agency-fu.../>

They would be tasked with further looking into a psilocybin equity program to “provide resources to communities with barriers to accessing health care, to increase the number of culturally specific practices and people who are low-income who hold licenses.”

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The wide-ranging equity study would be used to inform regulatory or legislative decisions around reducing fees for disadvantaged communities, grants for those individuals to receive financial and technical assistance to enter the market and a proposal that “psilocybin service centers dedicate a minimum percentage of psilocybin treatment sessions to clients who are low-income.”

Mason Marks, a member of Oregon’s Psilocybin Advisory Board that was established under the voter-approved 2020 initiative told Marijuana Moment that the new bill is “very important because Measure 109 did not focus on equity as much as it should have,” whereas [emerging psychedelic legislation in other states](#)—including neighboring Washington—makes equity a “central concern.”

“Oregon has been a trend setter with respect to psychedelics policy,” he said. “But when it comes to equity it may fall behind.”

Looking ahead, Marks said, future legislation should allow at-home psilocybin services for people unable to travel to a service center and more affordable and accessible training opportunities for would-be facilitators of psychedelic sessions.

For now, under the current bill, the task force would also need to investigate the possibility of creating a psilocybin equity office in the state. Members would be required to submit a report on its findings by November 1, 2022.

This would not be a permanent task force, as the aforementioned requirements would be repealed as of January 2, 2023 under the [measure](#).

The existing Psilocybin Advisory Board is set to issue recommendations on implementing the program to state regulators in March.

Late last year, the board [cleared a team of researchers to produce](#) a comprehensive report on the science, history and culture of the psychedelic as regulators prepare to license facilities to administer it.



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Part of the intent of the expanded research project is to help inform legislative efforts outside of Oregon where psychedelics reform is being considered.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), who represents the state in Congress and endorsed the psychedelics initiative, said during an event with the national Plant Medicine Coalition this week that there's a "very thoughtful, very deliberate" process underway to implement the reform.

The congressman said that he's "very excited that Oregon is going to once again be pioneering a very critical policy area." He also talked about his enthusiasm for the state experiment in response to a question from Marijuana Moment at a separate event last month.

### Majority Of Americans Say They'd Vote For A Politician Who Smokes Marijuana, Poll Finds

A majority of Americans said they wouldn't have an issue voting for someone who occasionally smokes marijuana, according to a new poll. The YouGov survey, which involved interviews with 4,096 adults, comes about a week after a U.S. Senate candidate made waves after releasing a campaign ad where he smokes a cannabis blunt while discussing ... Continue reading

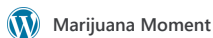
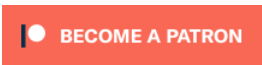


Photo courtesy of [Wikimedia/Mushroom Observer](#).

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Kyle Jaeger



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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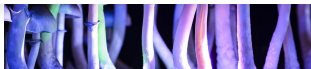
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## POLITICS

# Top Federal Drug Agency Funds Research On Differing Legal Marijuana Regulatory Models



Published 10 hours ago on February 21, 2022

By Kyle Jaeger



The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is renewing its push to promote federally funded research into marijuana as more states enact reform—specifically expressing interest in studies on differing cannabis regulatory models that are in place across the country.

In a notice of interest published on Friday, the agency outlined the types of study proposals it hopes to fund and gave instructions to researchers on how to apply. NIDA said the guidance is informed by recommendations from a [workgroup it set up to explore the issue in 2018](#).

The study solicitation is [nearly identical to one NIDA put out in 2019](#), but that earlier notice expired last month. Evidently the agency is committed to seeing these research objectives

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# Well As Harms



Published 12 hours ago on February 21, 2022

By Marijuana Moment



*“Just putting this information together and putting it into the form that is useful is an extraordinarily large task.”*

By Faith Miller, Colorado Newsline

Researchers have made “a great deal of progress” on reviewing available evidence of high-potency marijuana products’ health effects, the dean of the Colorado School of Public Health told state lawmakers Friday.

The scientific review is required under 2021 legislation, [House Bill 21-1317](#), that sought

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## Police Keep Arresting People For Drugs Even As Incarceration Rates Drop, Pew Study Finds



Published 14 hours ago on February 21, 2022

By Kyle Jaeger



Even as states have adopted less punitive drug policies—with an emphasis on treatment over incarceration—police have continued to arrest people for illegal substances at a steady rate, a new analysis from the Pew Charitable Trust found.

The report details several interesting trends in drug policy and enforcement that developed from 2009 to 2019. Researchers identified “divergent enforcement trends—high rates of arrest but substantially reduced incarceration—coupled with a lack of treatment options and high mortality rates among people with illicit drug dependence.”

There are a few data points that advocates are encouraged by: lower rates of incarceration.



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