



HISTORY OF WASHINGTON STATE MARIJUANA LAWS

1998

Initiative 692: Created an affirmative defense to the violation of state laws relating to marijuana used and possessed for medicinal purposes. Qualifying patients or their designated primary caregivers may establish the defense if they possess only the amount of marijuana necessary for their personal use, up to a 60-day supply, and if they present valid documentation from a physician to law enforcement officers. *Approved by 59 percent of voters.*

2007

SB 6032: Directed the Washington Department of Health to adopt rules defining a presumptive quantity for a 60-day supply of marijuana for medicinal use. The law also expanded the health conditions for which marijuana use may be authorized, and revised the parameters of the documentation required from physicians. *Sponsored by Kohl-Welles, McCaslin, Kline, Regala and Keiser.*

2010

SB 5798: Expanded the list of professionals who may authorize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes to include all licensed health care professionals who have prescribing authority, i.e., physicians, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physician assistants, naturopaths, and advanced registered nurse practitioners. *Sponsored by Kohl-Welles, McCaslin, Keiser, Pflug, and Kline.*

2011

SB 5073: Established a regulatory system to license the production and distribution of marijuana intended for medicinal use. The law also created a voluntary patient registry in which qualifying patients and designated providers may enroll and receive protection from arrest and prosecution. Many portions of the bill were vetoed because of concerns regarding potential federal prosecution of state employees who would have been engaging in the activities necessary to license marijuana production and dispensing facilities. The authorization for patient home grows and collective gardens was not vetoed and that provision gave rise to the statewide expansion of an unregulated gray market, which eventually would need to be reconciled with the comprehensive regulatory structure created by voter approval of Initiative 502. *Sponsored by Kohl-Welles, Delvin, Keiser, Regala, Pflug, Murray, Tom, Kline, McAuliffe, and Chase.*

2012

Initiative 502: Established a comprehensive regulatory structure for the licensing and taxation of marijuana production & distribution (wholesale and retail sales), and authorized possession of marijuana for personal use (1 ounce or less) for persons age 21 and older. The initiative also dedicated a percentage of tax revenue for substance-abuse prevention, research, education, and healthcare. *Approved by 55.7 percent of voters.*

2015

SB 5052: Merges the unregulated gray market of marijuana intended for medicinal use with the comprehensive regulatory system established by I-502, and requires licensed marijuana retailers to obtain a medical marijuana endorsement to sell medical-grade marijuana to qualifying patients and designated providers. The law also creates a voluntary patient database at the Washington Department of Health allowing patients to obtain a recognition card authorizing the possession of additional amounts of marijuana and exempting patients from paying retail sales tax. Finally, the law replaces unregulated collective gardens & dispensaries with small patient cooperatives which must be registered with the Liquor and Cannabis Board, beginning July 2016. *Sponsored by Senators Rivers, Hatfield, and Conway.*

SB 5121: Creates a license to grow and possess marijuana for research purposes and authorizes the University of Washington and Washington State University to collaborate with marijuana research licensees for research purposes. *Sponsored by Kohl-Welles, Rivers, Bailey, Pedersen, Lias, McAuliffe, Frockt, Chase, Keiser, and Hatfield.*

HB 2136: Compresses the 25 percent producer-level and processor-level taxes into a 37 percent retail-level tax levied on the buyer, and creates a sales and use tax exemption for patients with a recognition card. The law also provides for the sharing of marijuana tax revenues with local jurisdictions based on retail sales and population, and renames the Liquor Control Board to the Liquor and Cannabis Board. *Sponsored by Carlyle.*

HB 2000: Authorizes the governor to enter into agreements with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding any marijuana-related issue involving both state and tribal interests or impacting tribal-state relations. The law also exempts tribes from state sales, excise, and use taxes with respect to tribal commercial activities involving marijuana, when such exemptions are included in a tribal-state agreement. *Sponsored by Hurst, Condotta, and Tarleton.*
