



Legal Marijuana Enforcement

Our history

- Legalized medical marijuana in December of 2018.
- Law enforcement nor the state expected it would pass.
- The state was unprepared for legalization.
- **Officers received little to no training from the state.**





Issues

VA HB2312

Marijuana; legalization; retail sales; penalties. Eliminates criminal penalties for simple possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by persons 21 years of age or older, modifies several other criminal penalties related to marijuana, and imposes limits on dissemination of criminal history record information related to certain marijuana offenses. The bill creates the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (the Authority), the Cannabis Oversight Commission, the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, the Cannabis Equity Reinvestment Board and Fund, and the Virginia Cannabis Equity Business Loan Program and Fund and establishes a regulatory and licensing structure for the cultivation, manufacture, wholesale, and retail sale of retail marijuana and retail marijuana products, to be administered by the Authority. The bill contains social equity provisions that, among other things, provide support and resources to persons and communities that have been historically and disproportionately affected by drug enforcement. The bill has staggered effective dates, and numerous provisions of the bill are subject to reenactment by the 2022 Session of the General Assembly.

Most of the bill — including legal possession — will take effect on July 1, 2021

Sales would begin no earlier than January 1, 2024.



What's the concern?



Fatal Crashes Involving Marijuana Increase After Legalization: Study

Fatal Car Accidents Involving Marijuana Have Tripled in U.S.

June 2021 Study Warns of Increasing Risk of Marijuana-Impaired Motor Vehicle Accidents

Legalizing recreational marijuana is linked to increased crashes

June 22, 2017

IIHS Claims Marijuana Legalization Causes Crashes

By Matt Posky on June 17, 2021

Crashes rise in first states to begin legalized retail sales of recreational marijuana

October 18, 2018

Crash rates jump in wake of marijuana legalization, new studies show

June 17, 2021

What's the next move?

Officers need information and education, specifically on cannabis.

Why?

Officers have limited knowledge of marijuana

1. What it looks like
2. What it smells like
3. ~~For the better part of their career, it has been illegal.~~



Traffic Safety.

- ✓ DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Focuses mainly on alcohol
(rightfully so as alcohol is legal but now so is marijuana)
- ✓ Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
One session on cannabis. Approximately 20-30 minutes
- ✓ Drug Recognition Expert
Most officers are/will not become DREs
- ✗ Cannabis Impairment Specific Training (Green Labs)
 1. Focus on cannabis consumption methods
 2. Onset and duration of effects
 3. Toxicology

Cannabis Specific Training

- Marijuana Minutes
- Green Lab Training

11-nor-9-carboxy



Marijuana Minutes



Green Lab Training

Initial Classroom training

- FSTs Review
- Research Study Review
- Toxicology Review/Chemical tests
- Tour of facilities



Green Lab Training

Classroom Lab 1

- Moderate consumption by volunteer
- Each group is assigned a DRE Instructor
- Submit observed clues (All clues observed/approved by DRE Instructor)

Classroom Lab 2

- Overconsumption by volunteer
- All observable signs documented

Green Lab Training

Debrief

- Review of all data with consumers and officers.
- Questions/discussion from consumers and officers.
- This is not only a time for officers to learn, but for consumers to learn as well.

“Practice is the hardest part of learning, and training is the essence of transformation.”

— Ann Voskamp,



Ryan Hutton



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