



Federal Lawmakers Call For A Presidential Commission To Review US Marijuana Policies

Washington, DC: United States Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN) - along with Reps Earl Blumenhauer (D-OR), Jim Moran (D-VA), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Sam Farr (D-CA) - [introduced](#) legislation last week in the House of Representatives to establish a national commission to review US marijuana policy and issue recommendations to federal lawmakers.

[House Resolution 1635](#), the National Commission on Federal Marijuana Policy Act of 2013, seeks to establish a 13-member expert committee "to review of the state and efficacy of current policies of the Federal Government toward marijuana."

Specifically, members of the commission would make recommendations to Congress regarding the following:

- * 'How federal policy should interact with State laws that make marijuana legal for medicinal or personal use;

- * 'The cost of marijuana prohibition and potential state and federal regulation of marijuana, as well as the potential revenue generated by taxation of marijuana;

- * 'The health impacts ... related to marijuana use ... in comparison to alcohol and tobacco use;

<continued on page 3 >

Poll: Majority Of Adults Endorse Regulating Marijuana Like Alcohol

Washington, DC: Nearly six out of ten US adults [support](#) legalizing the consumption of marijuana, and slightly more than half believe that the substance ought to be regulated in a manner similar to alcohol, according to national polling [data](#) released last week by [YouGov.com](#) and *The Huffington Post*.

<continued on page 3 >

Supreme Court: Noncitizens Do Not Face Mandatory Deportation For Minor Marijuana Violations

Washington, DC: The Supreme Court of the United States [ruled](#) 7 to 2 on Tuesday that noncitizens are not subject to mandatory deportation for violating state marijuana laws.

Writing for the majority, Justice Sonia Sotomayor opined that low-level marijuana offenses may not be legally classified by US immigration authorities as "aggravated felonies" under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, which defines such acts as deportable offenses for noncitizens.

<continued on page 4 >

Federal Lawmakers Introduce Measure To Respect State Marijuana Laws

Washington, DC: United States Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), along with a bipartisan coalition of three Republicans and three Democrats, introduced [legislation](#) in Congress last week to protect those who engage in the state-authorized use and/or distribution of cannabis. House Resolution 1523, the Respect State Marijuana Laws Act, amends the federal Controlled Substances Act to exempt from

<continued on page 4 >

US Supreme Court Limits Warrantless Use Of Drug Sniffing Dogs

Washington, DC: The Supreme Court of the United States [ruled](#) last week 5 to 4 to limit law enforcement's use of drug sniffing dogs in situations where police did not possess probable cause or a warrant. The ruling upheld a Florida Supreme Court decision finding that police violated the Fourth Amendment

<continued on page 4 >



The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from **FEDERAL LAWMAKERS CALL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW US MARIJUANA POLICIES, page 1** >

* 'The impact of marijuana prohibition on criminal justice, including any racial disparities, and the collateral consequences of prosecution for marijuana possession, including lack of access to housing, education, and employment.'

Members of the commission would also issue recommendations regarding the "appropriate placement of marijuana in the schedule of the [federal] Controlled Substances Act," which presently classifies cannabis as a [Schedule I](#) prohibited substance in the same category as heroin.

The proposed commission would be modeled after the National Commission on Marihuana Use (aka the [Shafer Commission](#)). That Commission, appointed by then-President Richard Nixon in 1971, called on Congress to decriminalize cannabis possession offenses. Federal lawmakers rejected the Commission's recommendations.

Congress has failed to sponsor any additional reviews of US marijuana policy since that time.

"Regardless of your views on marijuana, it's important that we understand the impact of current federal policy and address the conflict with those state laws that allow for medicinal or personal use of marijuana," said Rep. Cohen in a prepared [statement](#). "This conflict is



only going to continue to grow over the next few years and we must provide certainty to the millions of individuals and businesses that remain caught in a web of incompatible laws. A national commission would provide us with the information we need to create sensible policy going forward."

"The Obama administration has repeatedly stated that it is time for a national conversation regarding America's marijuana policies," stated NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri, "NORML is pleased to have worked with Representative Cohen and his staff on this important legislation so that this conversation may finally take place at the highest levels of government. A majority of Americans agree that it is time for the United States to end its fruitless and expensive war on cannabis consumers and pursue policies of regulation and taxation.

Establishing this national commission would be a pragmatic and productive step toward creating a framework for a functional federal policy on marijuana."

House Resolution 1635 is one of [several marijuana law reform bills](#) now pending before the United States Congress, including [House Resolution 499: The Ending Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2013](#), [House Resolution 1523, the Respect State Marijuana Laws Act](#), [House Bill 689: the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act](#), and [Senate Bill 359: the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013](#).

Full text of HR 1635 is not yet available on the Library of Congress' legislative website, [Thomas.loc.gov](#).

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from **POLL: MAJORITY OF ADULTS ENDORSE REGULATING MARIJUANA LIKE ALCOHOL, page 1** >

Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that the adult use of cannabis ought to be legal. Among those favoring legalization, 51 percent supported taxing and regulating the retail production and sale of the substance in a manner similar to alcohol. Six percent of respondents said that they opposed imposing any taxes or regulations on legal cannabis production or sales.

Only 33 percent of respondents said that marijuana should not be legalized.



Seventy-four percent of respondents said that they believed that marijuana would eventually be legal in the United States.

The YouGov/Huffington Post survey interviewed 1,000 US adults and possesses a margin of error of ± 3.6 percent.

In recent months, similar national polls by [Pew](#), [Gallup](#), [Quinnipiac University](#), and [Public Policy Polling](#) have also reported majority public support for legalizing and regulating the adult use of cannabis.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.



<continued from SUPREME COURT: NONCITIZENS DO NOT FACE MANDATORY DEPORTATION FOR MINOR MARIJUANA VIOLATIONS, page 1 > The petitioner in the case, Adrian Moncrieffe - a Jamaican-born

citizen who had been living in the United States since the age of three - had been deported after pleading guilty in Georgia state court to possessing 1.3 grams of marijuana with the intent to distribute. He had not been made aware, prior to accepting the plea, that he could face deportation by federal immigration authorities.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito authored dissenting opinions.

The case is [Moncrieffe v. Holder](#).

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from FEDERAL LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE MEASURE TO RESPECT STATE MARIJUANA LAWS, page 1 > federal prosecution those individuals and businesses, including marijuana dispensaries and/or retail outlets, who are compliant with the marijuana laws of their state.



[Eighteen states](#) and the District of Columbia regulate the consumption of marijuana for therapeutic purposes and several of these states also license facilities to produce and dispense cannabis to qualified patients. [Two](#) additional states, Colorado and Washington, allow for the adult, non-medical use of marijuana and are in the process of finalizing regulations regarding the licensed commercial production and retail sale of the plant.

"This bipartisan bill represents a common-sense approach that establishes federal government respect for all states' marijuana laws," Rohrabacher said in a prepared [statement](#), "It does so by keeping the federal government out of the business of criminalizing marijuana activities in states that don't want it to be criminal."

Full text of HR 1523 is not yet available on the Library of Congress' legislative website, [Thomas.loc.gov](#). House Resolution 1523 is one of [several marijuana law reform bills](#) now pending before the United States Congress, including

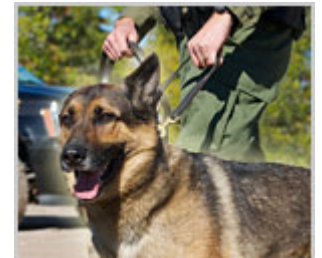
[House Resolution 499: The Ending Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2013](#), [House Bill 689: the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act](#), and [Senate Bill 359: the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013](#).

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from US SUPREME COURT LIMITS WARRANTLESS USE OF DRUG SNIFFING DOGS, page 1 > of the US Constitution when they allowed a drug identification dog to sniff around the front door of a private home absent a search warrant specifically authorizing them to do so.

Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia [opined](#): "The police cannot, without a warrant based on probable cause, hang around on the lawn or in the side garden, trawling for evidence and perhaps peering into the windows of the home. And the officers here had all four of their feet and all four of their companion's, planted firmly on that curtilage - the front porch is the classic example of an area intimately associated with the life of the home."

Justices Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined in the opinion.



Writing for the minority, Justice Samuel Alito opined that law enforcement's use of the dog "did not constitute a trespass and did not violate respondent's reasonable expectations of privacy."

The case is [Florida v. Jardines](#).

The Supreme Court in 2005 had previously ruled ([Illinois v. Caballes](#)) that an alert from a police dog during a traffic stop provides a constitutional basis for law enforcement to search the interior of the vehicle.

According to a 2011 [study](#) published in the scientific journal *Animal Recognition*, the performance of drug-sniffing dogs is significantly influenced by

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<continued from previous page> whether or not their handlers believe illicit substances are present. International statistics indicate that drug dogs are prone to false alerts, with data indicating an [80 percent failure rate](#) in some cases.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel at (202) 483-5500.

Poll: Three Out Of Four Washington, DC Residents Favor Eliminating Criminal Penalties For Minor Marijuana Violations



Washington, DC: Three out of four Washington, DC residents [favor](#) changing local law to reduce municipal penalties for minor

marijuana offenses, according to polling data compiled by the firm Public Policy Polling and commissioned by the advocacy groups, the [Marijuana Policy Project](#) and the [Drug Policy Alliance](#).

According to the [poll](#) of 1,621 random voters, 75 percent of DC residents support eliminating criminal penalties and, instead, imposing a \$100 fine for marijuana possession offenses involving one ounce or less of cannabis. Sixty-four percent of respondents also said that they supported fine-only penalties for offenses involving the personal cultivation of three plants or fewer. Under [present law](#), simple marijuana possession offenses are classified in the District as criminal misdemeanors, punishable by up to six months incarceration and a \$1,000 fine. Cultivating cannabis is punishable by a period of six-months to five years, depending on the amount grown.

The poll also found strong support among residents for legalizing and regulating cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol. Sixty-three percent of respondents said that they would be supportive of a municipal ballot measure to

legalize the consumption and retail distribution of marijuana for those aged 21 and over.

District voters have a history of supporting marijuana law reforms. In 1998, 69 percent of voters backed a municipal initiative to allow for the physician-authorized use of cannabis. That law, which was halted by Congress for over a decade, is expected to be [operational](#) within the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

St. Louis: City Officials Approve Municipal Measure To Decriminalize Minor Marijuana Offenses

St. Louis, MO: Members of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen this week [voted](#) 22 to 3 in favor of a municipal ordinance that seeks to cite, rather than arrest, minor marijuana offenders. Under the [ordinance](#), offenders will most likely face a fine, but no arrest, jail time, or criminal record for possessing minor amounts of cannabis.

A spokesman for St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay told media outlets that the mayor intends to sign the new law, which takes effect on June 1, 2013. St. Louis is the largest city in Missouri.



Under present [state law](#), marijuana possession offenses involving 35 grams or less are classified as criminal misdemeanors, punishable by up to one-year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Full text of the ordinance appears here: <http://stlouis-mo.gov/internal-apps/legislative/upload/floor-substitute/BB275FS.pdf>.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Dan Viets, Coordinator of Missouri NORML, at: danviets@justice.com.

Maryland: Lawmakers Approve Measure To Establish 'Medical Marijuana Compassionate Use Programs'

Annapolis, MD: Senate lawmakers on Monday



[voted](#) 42 to 4 in favor of [House Bill 1101](#), which establishes a state commission to promulgate medical cannabis research. House members had previously approved the measure, which

now goes to the desk of Democrat Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is expected to sign it into law.

House Bill 1101 establishes an independent, 12-member medical marijuana commission within the state Department of Health. The commission will request applications from Maryland academic medical centers to operate 'medical marijuana compassionate use programs.' Members of the commission will decide which patients will qualify for the programs and will license growers to provide cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

Patients who consume cannabis for therapeutic purposes but who are not participants in an authorized medical center program will not be legally protected from arrest under the measure. (Under a [separate Maryland state law](#), certain medical cannabis patients may raise an affirmative defense of medical necessity at trial.)

Separate legislative measures seeking to [regulate marijuana retails](#) to adults and/or [liberalize existing criminal penalties](#) to a fine only failed to make it out of the House Judiciary Committee before the close of the 2013 state legislative session.

If signed into law, HB 1101 will take effect on October 1, 2013. However, [it is not anticipated](#) that any state-sanctioned programs will be operational until well after that date

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

Kentucky: Hemp Research Measure Becomes Law



Frankfort, KY: Democrat Gov. Steve Beshear has [permitted](#) legislation regarding the regulation of industrial hemp to become law without his signature.

The measure, Senate Bill 50, encourages state-sponsored research pertaining to the cultivation of industrial hemp and imposes regulations to allow for the plant's licensed production as an agricultural commodity.

[Hemp](#) is a distinct variety of the plant species *cannabis sativa* that contains only minute (less than one percent) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Farmers worldwide grow hemp commercially for fiber, seed, and oil for use in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including food and clothing. The United States is the only developed nation that fails to cultivate industrial hemp as an economic crop, [according](#) to the Congressional Resource Service.

Eight additional states - Colorado, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia - have enacted statutory changes defining industrial hemp as distinct agricultural product. To date, however, no American farmers are engaged in large-scale cultivation of the crop because doing so without a federal license is in violation of the United States Controlled Substances Act.

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<continued from previous page> Federal legislation, the [Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013](#), to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana is pending in both the US Senate and House of Representatives. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.*



Members of the Senate's Corrections and Criminal Law Committee [approved](#) the new amendments, which seek to [increase penalties](#) and potential prison time for those who possess one-third of an ounce or more of marijuana.

Members of the General Assembly had previously approved HB 1006, which, at that time, included language to reduce marijuana possession penalties, among other drug possession offenses.

According to media reports, Republican Gov. Mike Pence specifically called for the increased penalties for minor marijuana offenses, [stating](#), "I think we need to focus on reducing crime, not reducing penalties."

Under present [law](#), the possession of approximately one ounce of marijuana is classified as a criminal misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The possession of larger quantities of cannabis is classified as a felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Senate lawmakers sudden move to increase penalties conflicts with public opinion. A 2012 Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll reported that 54 percent of voters supported reducing marijuana possession penalties to a fine-only, while only 37 percent disagreed.

For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at: Erik@norml.org or visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' [here: http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/51046/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=10203](http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/51046/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=10203).

Rhode Island: Marijuana Decriminalization Law Takes Effect

Providence, RI: Legislation [signed into law](#) last year decriminalizing minor marijuana possession offenses to a fine-only penalty [took effect](#) on Monday. Rhode Island is the [fifteenth state](#) to eliminate jail time in cases involving the personal possession of cannabis.

Under the new law, the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by an individual 18 years or older is a non-arrestable civil offense, punishable by a maximum fine of \$150 but no jail time, and no criminal record.



Previously, marijuana possession offenses were classified as criminal misdemeanors punishable by one year in jail and a \$500 maximum fine.

There have been 9 decriminalization proposals [introduced](#) this year at the state level, including Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Vermont. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel at (202) 483-5500.*

Indiana: Lawmakers Mulling Provisions To Felonize Marijuana Possession Offenses

Indianapolis, IN: A Senate Committee last week amended legislation, House Bill 1006, to include provisions to raise certain marijuana possession offenses from criminal misdemeanors to felonies.

Pew Poll: Majority Of Americans Say Marijuana Should Be Legal

Washington, DC: Fifty-two percent of Americans [say](#) that the adult consumption of cannabis ought to be legal, according to [national polling data](#) released last week by the Pew Research Center. The total is the highest percentage of support ever reported by Pew, which began surveying public opinion on this issue in 1973.

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from PEW POLL: MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SAY MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGAL, previous page> This year's percentage marks an 11 percent increase in support since 2010, the last time Pew posed the question. Forty-five percent of respondents said they opposed liberalizing marijuana laws.

Democrats, (59 percent), males (57 percent), African Americans (56 percent), and those respondents between the ages of 18 and 29 (64 percent) were most likely to favor legalizing marijuana. Female respondents (48 percent), Republicans (37 percent), and those age 65 and over (33 percent) were least



likely to back legalization.

Pollsters also reported that 77 percent of Americans - including 72 percent of self-identified Republicans and 60 percent of those respondents age 65 or older - believe that cannabis possesses "legitimate medical uses," a position that directly [conflicts with federal policy](#).

According to Pew, a solid majority of Americans also question present federal efforts to enforce the criminalization of cannabis. The poll reported that 72 percent of respondents agreed that "government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth," and 60 percent of Americans said that the government should no longer enforce federal anti-marijuana laws in states that have approved of its use.

In recent months, national polls by [Gallup](#), [Quinnipiac University](#), and [Public Policy Polling](#) have all similarly reported majority public

support for legalizing and regulating the adult use of cannabis.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

Study: Low Doses Of THC Provide Cardioprotection

Tel Aviv, Israel: Low doses of THC are cardioprotective in mice, according to preclinical [data](#) to be published online in the journal *Biochemical Pharmacology*.

Israeli scientists assessed in impact of a single 'ultra-low' injection of THC in mice prior to ischemia (the restriction of blood supply to tissues). Investigators reported that THC "is a safe and effective treatment that reduces myocardial ischemic (heart attack) damage."



They concluded: "[O]ur study provides novel evidence for the beneficial use of extremely low doses of THC, doses that do not elicit any psychoactive side effects, in order to protect the heart from ischemic insults. THC can be used as a pre-conditioning drug in cases in which ischemic insult to the heart is anticipated, such as during cardiac surgery or percutaneous coronary intervention. If post-conditioning with THC will be found effective, it could also be used following myocardial infarction."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "An ultra-low dose of tetrahydrocannabinol provides cardioprotection," appears in *Biochemical Pharmacology*.*