

Smart & Safe Arizona: Proposition 207

Overview

The law would allow limited marijuana possession, use, and cultivation by adults 21 or older; amend criminal penalties for marijuana possession; ban smoking marijuana in public; impose a 16 percent excise tax on marijuana sales to fund public programs; authorize state/local regulation of marijuana licensees; and allow expungement of marijuana offenses.

Provisions

- Makes legal the possession, consumption, and sale of one ounce of marijuana, including in the form of edibles or concentrates (“vapes”)
- Growers must be licensed and may produce an unlimited volume of marijuana
- Allows marijuana sellers to advertise on all platforms, but restricts “direct, individualized communication or dialogue” with youth
- Reduces penalties for adult possession of marijuana and prevents employers and others for imposing penalties of any kind on a person for possessing or using allowable amounts of marijuana
- Imposes a 16 percent excise tax on the sale of marijuana. This tax rate is permanent and cannot be changed by the legislature. The rate can only be increased through a voter initiative that increases sales tax generally across the state.
- If cannabis is taxed federally, Arizona’s tax collection on cannabis decreases proportionally. If federal tax rate on cannabis reaches 30 percent, Arizona’s tax rate decreases to zero percent.

The “Yes” Argument

Public Safety

Limits the amount of THC in legal cannabis to a reasonable level and requires all packaging be childproof and labeled

Frees police to focus on more violent crime and hard drugs by removing obligation to enforce cannabis-related crimes

Impact on Economy

May generate up to \$3 billion in new revenue over the first ten years of the program

Will create new, high-paying jobs across Arizona for the production and manufacturing of cannabis

The “No” Argument

Public Safety

Legalizes high-potency cannabis and makes it much more easily accessible for children and teens

Will lead to cannabis impaired drivers on the road with lower penalties for cannabis-influenced driving

Impact on Economy

Tax provisions lock Arizona into a potentially expensive program without the ability to adjust revenue to account for it – in most states, revenue falls far below the cost of implementation.

Weakens employer’s ability to restrict and enforce safety provisions banning the use of cannabis

Revenue Streams:

Money collected by the excise tax will be distributed and spent as follows:

- Thirty-three percent (33%) to community college districts for workforce development programs, job training, career and technical, and science, math, and engineering programs
- Thirty-one and four tenths percent (31.4%) to municipal police, fire, and sheriff's departments
- Twenty-five and four tenths percent (25.4%) to the Arizona Highway Users Revenue Fund
- Ten percent (10%) to the Justice Reinvestment Fund for public and behavioral health, restorative justice, anti-recidivism, substance abuse intervention, and workforce development programs
- Two tenths percent (0.2%) to the Arizona Attorney General for enforcement of the chapter

Arizona Farm Bureau Policy:

Drug Education and Enforcement:

We support effective enforcement of present laws and the enactment of new legislation where needed to prevent the importation, manufacturing, and distribution of such materials.

We support effective penalties including rehabilitation measures for first offense users and urge increased penalties for those engaged in the illegal distribution or sale of narcotics and drugs.

We oppose legalization of marijuana for recreational use.