

FACT SHEET

Illinois Marijuana Law - Quick Facts

Beginning January 1, 2020, people 21 and older will be allowed to buy cannabis legally for recreational use at state-licensed dispensaries in Illinois.

General Facts

- Illinois is the 11th state to legalize cannabis and plans to regulate and tax cannabis like it does alcohol.
- Those who support legalized marijuana expect it to generate revenue that will help crime- and poverty-stricken communities, as well as to help fund services that aid substance abuse, mental health, and law enforcement services.⁽²⁾
- Though cannabis remains illegal according to federal law, federal law enforcement agencies generally do not prosecute possession of small amounts nor businesses complying with state cannabis programs.⁽²⁾

Who can buy cannabis?

Illinois residents age 21 and older may purchase cannabis products from licensed-sellers, with or without a medical marijuana card. Consumers may possess up to 30 grams, or about one ounce (approximately the amount an adult can hold in cupped hands), 5 grams of cannabis concentrate, or 500 milligrams of THC (the chemical that gets users high) in a cannabis-infused product such as gummies and other types of candy, tinctures, or lotions.

Who can grow cannabis?

- Initially, only 20 existing licensed medical marijuana cultivation facilities will be licensed to grow cannabis.
- In 2020, the state will grant additional licenses to craft growers who apply for a license. Preference will be given to applicants from minority areas that are affected disproportionately by the war on drugs, such as the South and West sides of Chicago.⁽²⁾
- Medical cannabis patients will be able to legally grow up to five plants at a time.

Who can sell cannabis?

- In January 2020, medical marijuana dispensaries will be the only legal sellers of recreational marijuana.
- Beginning in mid-2020, additional licenses will be granted to new retail stores, as well as to other related business, such as processors and transporters.

Who can ban cannabis?

- Individual municipalities and counties may not ban individual possession but may ban cannabis businesses within their boundaries.
- Any landlord, business, or person may prohibit use on private property.
- Colleges and universities may continue to prohibit cannabis use.

Where is consumption prohibited?

It's legal to use cannabis in one's own home, as long as outsiders can't see it. Use is prohibited:

- In any public place, like streets, parks, school grounds, etc. (except for medical users)
- In any motor vehicle
- Near someone under the age of 21
- Near a school bus driver, police officer, firefighter, or corrections officer while on duty

Who will handle oversight?

- The Department of Agriculture will be responsible for licensure and oversight of cultivation centers, craft growers, infusers, and transporting organizations, as well as establishing the potency limits and serving size limits, including THC amounts. THC has been associated with harmful effects, such as psychosis.
- The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation will be responsible for licensure and oversight of dispensing organizations.

How will cannabis advertising be restricted?

Marijuana business establishments cannot engage in advertising that:

- Is false or misleading
- Depicts actual consumption
- Depicts a person under 21 consuming marijuana
- Appeals to minors
- Includes the image of a cannabis leaf or bud

References:

1. Berg, Austin. "What You Need to Know About Marijuana Legalization in Illinois." www.illinoispolicy.org. 01 Jun. 2019. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.
2. McCoppin, Robert. "Here's when marijuana will be available, and answers to other burning questions about recreational weed." *Chicago Tribune*. 25 Jun. 2019. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.
3. Illinois.gov. "Adult Use Cannabis Summary." ND. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.

Resources for Further Research

- Approaches to Marijuana
<https://learnaboutsam.org/>
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA): Research into Action – Marijuana Series
<https://www.cadca.org/resources/research-action-webinar-series-marijuana>
- Illinois – Smart Approaches to Marijuana
<http://healthyillinois.org/>
- Illinois Policy – Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Illinois' Cannabis Legalization Law
<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-marijuana-legalization-in-illinois/>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) – Research Report Series on Marijuana
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana>
- Partnership for Drug Free Kids
<https://drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana>
- SAMSHA – Know the Risks About Marijuana
<https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>
- What Do We Know About Marijuana – E-learning Course
<http://learning.cadca.org/available-courses>