



## **Senate Bill 7 – Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis**

### **Overview**

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, Illinois residents 21 and older will be able to legally purchase and possess cannabis.

- Possession limits for Illinois residents:
  - 30 grams of cannabis flower;
  - 5 grams of cannabis concentrate;
  - 500 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product; or
  - 5 cannabis plants taller than 5 inches.
  
- Possession limits for non-Illinois residents:
  - 15 grams of cannabis flower;
  - 2.5 grams of cannabis concentrate;
  - 250 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product

Neither residents nor non-residents may transport any cannabis product over state lines.

### **Revenue allocation**

All taxes and licensing fees would be placed in a Cannabis Regulation Fund, used to pay for government expenses needed to regulate the program. The remaining funds will be distributed to the following programs:

- 35% will be transferred to the General Revenue Fund,
- 25% will be transferred to the Restoring Our Communities Fund for community reinvestment,
- 20% will be transferred to a fund that will support mental health and substance abuse services at local health departments,
- 10% will be transferred to the Budget Stabilization Fund to pay the backlog of unpaid bills,
- 8% will be transferred to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board to create a law enforcement grant program, and
- 2% will be transferred to the Drug Treatment Fund to fund public education and awareness.

### **Public safety and public health elements**

- All cannabis products will be tested for potency and contaminants to ensure consumers know exactly what they are purchasing.
- Businesses will be required to label cannabis products with test results and product warnings to inform individuals of potency and serving size.
- Cannabis businesses will be subject to comprehensive security, background checks, packaging, advertising and location rules.
- The serving size of edible cannabis products will be standardized, including regulating the maximum amount of cannabis that could be in a serving.
- Consuming cannabis in public and driving under the influence of cannabis will remain illegal.

- This legislation brings underage cannabis consumption penalties in line with underage drinking. Individuals younger than 21 caught consuming cannabis could have their license suspended and face fines and criminal charges.

### **Home grow**

- Illinois households are permitted to possess up to five cannabis plants taller than 5 inches under certain conditions

### **Local control**

- Local towns and municipalities will retain significant power to decide how cannabis businesses may or may not fit into their communities, including:
  - Opting out completely
  - deciding how many dispensaries or craft growers will be allowed in an area;
  - deciding how close the businesses can be to each other;

### **Protecting employers and landlords**

- Employers may maintain a zero drug tolerance workplace under this proposal.
- Landlords would not be required to permit tenants to possess or consume cannabis products on their property.

### **Promoting equity**

This legislation seeks to help resolve some of the negative effects of nearly 80 years of cannabis prohibition on minority communities.

- Creation of a \$20 million low-interest loan program
  - IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will administer a grant and low-interest loan program to qualified “social equity applicants” to help with the start-up costs associated with entering the new cannabis industry.
- The proposal would establish a new grant program, the Restoring Our Communities (ROC) program, to invest in communities that have suffered the most because of discriminatory drug policies.
- The proposal sets forth an expedited process of expunging the criminal records of individuals arrested, convicted, on supervision, or on probation for misdemeanor or Class 4 felony violations of the Cannabis Control Act.