

# LEGAL UPDATE

## House Passes Federal Marijuana Decriminalization Bill (MORE Act)

On April 1, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 220-204 in favor of decriminalizing marijuana at the federal level.

Although the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement ([MORE Act](#)) is not expected to become law due to lack of support in the Senate, the House vote is significant because it is the second time either chamber of Congress has acted to remove federal prohibitions against marijuana use.

The House previously passed a similar version of the bill on Dec. 4, 2020. While that bill was never brought up in the Senate, the new MORE Act is generally considered more likely to at least reach a vote in that chamber.

### The MORE Act

The MORE Act would eliminate all federal criminal penalties related to marijuana by removing it from the federal Controlled Substances Act. It would also expunge virtually all federal marijuana convictions back to 1971, create grant programs, and impose a 5% sales tax on all marijuana products.

### Employer Impact

An amendment included in the new bill would require the federal government to conduct a study on how state recreational marijuana laws affect various aspects of the workplace, such as workers' compensation claims and sick days used.

The MORE Act also includes protections against being denied any federal benefit based on marijuana use or convictions. Otherwise, it does not address marijuana in the context of private employment. Therefore, employers should watch for more information and become familiar with and follow all applicable state and local laws relating to marijuana and employment.

### Highlights

#### The MORE Act

The U.S. House approved a bill that would remove all criminal penalties for marijuana use under federal law. It might get a vote in the Senate.

#### State Marijuana Laws

The MORE Act would not directly affect any state laws addressing marijuana.

#### Workplace Study

The MORE Act would require a federal study of legalized marijuana's effects on the workplace.

*The MORE Act would remove marijuana from the federal Controlled Substances Act. State laws would still apply.*

---

Provided to you by [Kinloch Consulting Group, Inc.](#)

This Legal Update is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact legal counsel for legal advice. © 2022 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.