



September 4, 2020

## What's in the MORE Act

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's office said the House will vote the week of Sept. 21 on the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019. The vote decides if cannabis would be removed from the Controlled Substances Act. The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill last November. Passage of the MORE Act would represent the biggest change to federal drug policies in half a century.

Cannabis is listed as a Schedule I drug under the CSA signed into law in 1970. Drugs in that category are defined as possessing no medical value and being highly addictive. The MORE Act would remove cannabis from the CSA completely, but it would not force states to legalize its sale or production. The production and sale of cannabis would still need to be regulated by the states to be legal. A summary of the bill:



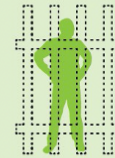
### Federal legalization of marijuana

Removes marijuana from the CSA list of scheduled substances; eliminates criminal penalties for manufacture, distribution or possession.



### Federal laws refer to "cannabis"

Replaces statutory references to marijuana and marihuana with cannabis.



### Some cannabis-related criminal records removed

Establishes a process to expunge convictions and conduct sentencing review hearings related to federal cannabis offenses; gives states incentives to expunge state cannabis records.



### Creation of Opportunity Trust Fund

Establishes a trust fund to support various programs and services for impoverished individuals who themselves, or whose immediate family member, have been arrested for or convicted of sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis.



### Federal tax on cannabis sales

Imposes a 5 percent tax on cannabis products manufactured in or imported into the U.S. and requires revenues to be deposited into the trust fund.



### Loans to cannabis businesses allowed

Makes Small Business Administration loans and services available to entities that are cannabis-related legitimate businesses or service providers.



### Persons with cannabis-related convictions can get public benefits, federal security clearances

Prohibits the denial of federal public benefits or federal security clearance to a person on the basis of any past or present cannabis use, possession or conviction.



### Immigration laws cannot deny public benefits/protections for cannabis conduct or convictions

Prohibits the denial of benefits and protections under immigration laws on the basis of any past or present cannabis-related conduct or conviction.



### Federal collection of cannabis job data

Requires the Bureau of Labor Statistics to regularly publish demographic data on cannabis business owners and workers in the cannabis industry.

Sources: Congressional Research Service, POLITICO staff reports