



Marijuana Alert - December 9, 2020



U. S. House votes to decriminalize marijuana (H.R. 3884)

The House on Friday passed a H. R. 3884 that would **remove federal penalties on marijuana and erase cannabis-related criminal records**. The bill passed by a vote of 228-164. While the MORE Act is **not expected to come up in the Senate this year, and likely won't in the next session of Congress** either, its passage nevertheless marks a monumental step in marijuana policy. . . . **"The smartest thing that happened to facilitate legalization was for criminal justice and racial justice issues to get elevated in the cannabis debate,"** said John Hudak, an expert on cannabis policy at the Brookings Institution.

. . . No one expects that passage in the House will shake the Republican-led Senate's inaction on marijuana, however. McConnell has said he will not consider comprehensive marijuana legislation, and if Republicans retain control following the Georgia Senate runoff it appears unlikely the MORE Act would be raised in the Senate. [Read more](#)

NOTE: The vice president of the United States is the ex officio president of the Senate, as provided in Article I, Section 3, Clause 4, of the United States Constitution, **but may only vote in order to break a tie**. If Georgia elects two Democratic Senators, the Senate will be evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. The **presumptive VP, Kamala Harris, was the Senate sponsor of H. R. 3884**.

How IL delegation voted on H. R. 3884 ([Roll Call](#))

N - Mike Bost (R-12, Murphysboro)

N - Cheri Bustos (D-17, East Moline) [Some didn't liked her vote](#)

Y - Sean Casten (D-6, Downers Grove)

Y - Danny Davis (D-7, Chicago)

N - Rodney Davis (R-13, Taylorville)

Y - Bill Foster (D-11, Geneva)

Y - Jesus Garcia (D - 4, Chicago)

Y - Robin Kelly (D-2, Matteson)

N - Adam Kinzinger (R-16, Channahon)

Y - Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-8, Schaumburg)

N - Darin LaHood (R-18, Dunlap)**N - Daniel Lipinski (D-3, Western Springs)**

Y- Mike Quigley (D-5, Chicago)

Y- Bobby Rush (D-1, Chicago)

Y - Jan Schakowsky (D-9, Chicago)

Y- Bradley Schneider (D-10, Deerfield)

N - John Shimkus (R-15, Collinsville)

Y - Lauren Underwood (D-14, Naperville)

The MORE Act Promotes Marijuana Use, Not Justice

The House passed the Marijuana Reinvestment and Expungement Act (MORE) Act by a vote of 228-164 under a deceptive banner of social justice. While touted as a decriminalizing measure to expunge the records of low-level offenders, **the MORE Act actually dismantles federal enforcement against marijuana.** This vote marks an historic surrender in the war on drug addiction. **It denies the real threats of high potency marijuana to public safety, mental health, and our most vulnerable populations, including America's youth.**

In a total policy reversal, the MORE Act would **remove marijuana as a controlled substance, legalizing and commercializing its use, manufacture, and sale, without health-related safeguards, advertising guardrails, or measures to crack down on the thriving illicit marijuana market.** It would fully legalize unlimited potency marijuana products, including vapes and edibles appealing to youth, and allow any form of advertising, including on television during the Super bowl. [Read more](#)

Parents say proposed dispensary too close to school in Chicago

A pot shop proprietor's plan to open a second dispensary in the heart of the South Loop is facing stiff opposition from neighbors and parents raising concerns about the proposed store's close proximity to an elementary school.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is slated to rule Dec. 18 on the fate of the planned weed store at 1420 S. Michigan Ave., which is **only 8 feet beyond a city-mandated 500-foot buffer from Old St. Mary's School.** [Read more](#)

Reefer tax revenue closes in on booze

The Illinois Department of Revenue posted a record \$22.9 million in taxes from recreational marijuana in November, and the state collected \$25.7 million from booze sales in November.

That might be the end of the record highs for the time, as sales of marijuana declined in November, even as sales to so-called cannabis tourists from out of state reached another new high. Overall, the state has generated \$150 million of revenue on sales of \$582 million. [Read more](#)

Marijuana Positive Drug Testing Rates of Commercial Drivers

The data shows that drugs were the reason for nearly 98 percent of all positive tests recorded during the first eight months of the year, with alcohol accounting for only 892 individual cases. **Fifty-two percent of the total 40,433 positive test results were for marijuana use.** [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Send an e-mail or Christmas card to your [U. S. Representative](#). Please thank him/her for a NO vote on HR 3884.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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