



## Marijuana Action Alert - February 4, 2021

### **Rep. Ford pushes to create new pot shop licenses**

Amid uproar over the state's troubled efforts to issue new cannabis licenses, state Rep. La Shawn Ford said he introduced "shell bills" that will ultimately be used to create as many as 110 additional dispensary permits (**HB 327-331**)

. . .**Ford's draft legislation would also allow dispensaries to relocate** - a contentious issue that has derailed those recent negotiations in Springfield. The state's 55 medical stores - which now have the ability to also sell recreational weed - would be allowed to start moving four months after the second lottery takes place, while other pot shops could relocate four months after that.

Pam Althoff, a former state senator who now heads the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois, noted that cannabis licensing remains "a very complex and a very emotional issue" and should be prioritized. After that, lawmakers can turn their focus to **relocation and other legislative priorities, like allowing dispensaries to permanently offer curbside pickup and giving cannabis businesses the ability to put new hires to work while state officials run required background checks.** [Read more](#)

### **Democratic lawmakers make ending federal ban on marijuana legislative priority**

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Ron Wyden, D-OR, want to pass legislation that would end the federal prohibition on marijuana, which is legal in some states. [Read](#)

### **One Chicago Alderman Pushing POT in the Loop**

Downtown Chicago Alderman Brendan Reilly, 42nd Ward, has renewed a push to allow recreational marijuana sales in the Loop - the only part of the city where sales are banned.

. . . [Zoning Chair Tom]Tunney added that the mayor's opposition to the proposal doesn't mean it will never come up for a vote. "A lot of things go before zoning that the mayor is not a fan of," Tunney said, adding that there could be a substitute ordinance following a period of negotiation. "That's how the sausage is made." [Read](#)

### **NJ: Children getting sick from accidentally ingesting edibles found around the house**

. . . "We've had about a 600% increase from 2018 to 2020," added Dr. Diane

Calello, executive and medical director of the center at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. "If a young child gets into a high dose for that child - of THC, which is kind of the active ingredient - **they can have seizures or hallucinations** and end up in the hospital. In rare cases, can even stop breathing." [Read](#)

### **Study: More than half of people using marijuana for pain experience multiple withdrawal symptoms**

The perception of cannabis as "harmless" is not correct, she says. It contains substances called cannabinoids that act on the brain -- and that over time can lead the brain to react when those substances are absent.

In addition to a general craving to use cannabis, withdrawal symptoms can include **anxiety, sleep difficulties, decreased appetite, restlessness, depressed mood, aggression, irritability, nausea, sweating, headache, stomach pain, strange dreams, increased anger and shakiness.** [Read](#)

#### *For Immediate Action*

1. **Contact** your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) to ask him/her to OPPOSE the expansion of marijuana, including the following bills:
  - [HB 144](#) - Local licensing of marijuana clubs, tours, and events where **marijuana is sold and consumed on site**
  - [HB 193](#) - Home delivery of marijuana
  - [HB 327 - 331](#) - Shell bills
  - [HB 619](#) - Relocation of a marijuana dispensary
  - [SB 89](#) - Change locations of medical marijuana dispensaries
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

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