



## Marijuana Alert - January 19, 2021



### **HB 3653 - Criminal Justice bill passed**

The bill would reduce possession of small amounts of many drugs-including heroin and methamphetamine-to a misdemeanor instead of a felony crime. [Read](#)

See how your [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) voted.

### **Bill creating 75 more pot shops dies**

Though state senators approved the bill earlier Wednesday, the House failed to call it for a vote before the lame duck session ended. . . .After the bill failed, Toi Hutchinson,

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's senior advisor on cannabis control, urged lawmakers "to take swift action on passing the cannabis legislation" in its next session. [Read more](#)

### **IL sitting on marijuana revenue meant to foster businesses and help neighborhoods hurt by poverty and violence**

Despite promises that cannabis legalization in Illinois would fund more minority business participation and neighborhood improvements, the state has yet to spend \$62 million collected for those purposes.

Part of the delay in awarding the money is due to problems with the state's system to award new cannabis business licenses. The other reason for the holdup, officials say, is because of an outpouring of requests for funding.

. . . Through December, the Department of Revenue collected more than \$175 million in taxes from recreational marijuana sales. **From the proceeds, 35% goes to the state's General Fund, 25% for community development, 20% for substance abuse treatment and prevention and mental health, 10% to the state's backlog of bills,**

**8% to local law enforcement and 2% for education and collecting data on the health effects of legal pot. [Read](#)**

### **SB 54 for Home Delivery of Alcohol passed**

Senate Bill 54 amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934, providing that retailers can deliver alcoholic liquors to the home or other designated location of an Illinois customer.

**[SB 54](#) pre-empts Home Rule for all municipalities EXCEPT CHICAGO.**

The legislation provides several distributors, retailers, importers and shippers with permits and licenses to deliver spirits and wine across Illinois. [Read more](#)

### **Lincolnshire advisory referendum for recreational cannabis sales**

The impetus for the renewed interest in marijuana sales - and the resultant sales taxes they might bring - grew from trustee considerations of the impact the novel coronavirus pandemic has had on village finances. The marijuana sales tax would serve as a possible new revenue source for the village. [Read](#)

### **Battling 'COVID fatigue'**

After 10 months of facing COVID-19 restrictions, changes and unknowns, a recent federal survey revealed **half of U.S. adults are struggling with their mental health or substance abuse.** [Read more](#)

#### *For Immediate Action*

The 2021 General Assembly is now in session. The Senate will be back in session on January 26, and the House will be back on February 2 with a new Speaker. Chris Welch replaced Michael Madigan as Speaker of the House.

1. **If your Representative and/or Senator voted NO on HB 3653**, please call or send them a note to thank them for their vote.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

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1132 W Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 60702

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3/25/2021

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems,  
1132 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702

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