
Three-pronged Pressure to Cultivate Marijuana In-state

1. H.B. 65 Study Committee on Low THC Medical Oil Access

The official quest for in-state cultivation of marijuana in Georgia began in 2015, when H.B. 1 became law authorizing tetrahydrocannabinol¹ (THC) treatment for eight² specific conditions. A 2017 law provided reciprocity for states requiring state-issued cards for THC treatment, cut physician reporting to twice a year, and made hospice patients and six more ailments³ eligible. In 2018 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and intractable pain were added when H.B. 65 passed to create a ten-member Joint Study Committee on Low THC Medical Oil Access. After holding five public meetings across the state, committee co-chairmen filed the following final recommendations:

H.B. 65 Study Committee Recommendations

1. Reclassify THC from a Schedule I drug to Schedule II, to legalize physician prescriptions.
2. If marijuana is not reclassified federally, the 2019 General Assembly should do so.
3. The Commission wants marijuana to be exempted from the Georgia Seed Law⁴.
4. Licenses: 10 for cultivation, 10 for manufacturing, and license dispensaries as necessary.
5. The Commission recommends control of labeling and state-wide laboratory testing.
6. The Commission recommends that the Georgia Department of Health oversee the process.
7. The Commission recommends prohibiting pesticides and insecticides on marijuana plants.

2. H.R. 1473 Study Committee on Industrial Hemp Production

The five-member House Study Committee on Industrial Hemp Production was created by H.R. 1473 in 2018. Since the U.S. Agricultural Act of 2014 authorized cultivation of industrial hemp by universities and state departments of agriculture, 41 states have participated. Subsequently, passage of the U.S. Agricultural Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) nationally legalized broad cultivation of industrial hemp and removed limitations on processing.

The Farm Bill authorizes states to submit industrial hemp programs to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approval. Also, the USDOA is authorized to approve individual requests from hemp cultivators residing in states that do not participate in the federal hemp program.

H.R. 1473 Study Committee Recommendations (verbatim)

“The House Study Committee on Industrial Hemp Production recommends that Georgia move forward in legalizing industrial hemp production in a manner that creates a safe and effective program within federal regulations. Responsible production of the crop would provide additional opportunities for those participating in the agricultural economy. At a minimum

¹ The compound in marijuana commonly associated with “getting a person high.”

² Seizures, cancer, multiple sclerosis, Crohn’s, Lou Gehrig’s, Parkinson’s, mitochondrial, and sickle cell diseases.

³ Alzheimer’s, AIDS, autism spectrum disorder, Tourette’s, peripheral neuropathy, and epidermolysis bullosa,

⁴ Authority of the Georgia Seed Law: “The Law **regulates** the relations arising at **permission for distribution of agricultural crop** varieties, including **hybrid** varieties; and the **production and introduction of good quality seed and planting material into economic circulation.**” If marijuana were exempted, Seed Law regulations would not apply.

⁵ Cannabis that produces hemp cannot contain more than 0.3 percent THC, the hallucinogenic component of marijuana.

“a pilot program within the bounds of the Agricultural Act of 2014 will bring the state up to the competitive standards of 41 other states. [Since the President signed the Farm Bill and production became legal nationwide] Georgia should take steps to prepare a larger program that fits within the guidelines of that act. ...

“The Georgia DOA should advise the Governor and General Assembly on the creation of a program that is suitable for Georgia ... propose a license and fee structure, seek partners who may provide certified seed, and empower farmers to grow the product responsibly.... The committee also recommends that the state consider partnering the Georgia DOA with the University System of Georgia in order to connect licensed growers with a way to reliably test the THC levels of crops. The state should consider providing the University System of Georgia with the resources to research and test industrial hemp so that farmers may better know what types and processes will have the best outcomes in Georgia.”

3. Federal Farm Bill of 2018 Legalized Nationwide Hemp-grade Marijuana Growing

The Federal Farm Bill that passed December 13, 2018 adds *broad hemp cultivation* to current industrial hemp pilot programs and allows hemp products with no more than 0.3 percent THC to *cross state lines* for commercial or other purposes. Cannabis plants crossing state lines with higher THC content will be federally classified as marijuana and will lose federal protection.

The 2018 Farm Bill provides joint state/federal regulatory power over the cultivation and production of hemp-grade marijuana. However, the federal DOA is authorized to license hemp cultivators who live in states that do not participate in the federal hemp program.

ACTION – OPPOSE marijuana cultivation for THC, industrial hemp or other products. Until office numbers are available, call 404 656-5040 and ask for senators’ offices. For representatives’ numbers call 404 656-5015.

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School Security Study Committee

H.R. 1414 of 2018 authorized the creation of an eight-member House study Committee on School Security to research factors affecting school safety, including (a) mental health, (b) infrastructure designs, (c) equipment, (d) training and tasks of personnel, (e) planning, and (f) available resources.

During four public meetings across the state, testimony was presented by personnel from local school systems, local agencies, local law enforcement, state law enforcement, state agencies, and a federal agency.

In his report Dawson County's Dr. Garry McGiboney said data from the last three years shows *decreased* incidents of arson, bullying, larceny and theft, while other incidents *increased*, including academic dishonesty, computer trespass, vandalism, and handguns.

Committee Recommendations

1. Create a statewide threat management coordination team to develop school safety/security standards and best practices for local schools and local law enforcement.
2. Develop a threat assessment model outlined in the U.S. Secret Service School Safety Guide for districts and schools to use.
3. Increase the number of mental* health counselors available in schools.
4. Pass a law that expands ESPLOST to include school security.
5. Increase school climate through expansion of the PBIS program to all schools in Georgia.
6. Direct the DOE to establish best practices for safety infrastructure in new construction and renovations.
7. Investigate the creation of a statewide radio communications network within schools.
8. Expand awareness of the GBI's "See Something Send Something" app.
9. Examine school resource officer training and whether the SRO role should be codified.
10. Increase participation in current DOE and GEMA training and assistance.
11. Explore the introduction of bills that create school safety plans not subject to open records.
12. Examine the need for and scope of lock-down drills.

***Mental Health and the Georgia DOE**

Georgia's educational focus on mental health is not new; it's just more sophisticated, more dangerous, and more wide-spread than ever. In 1982 the Georgia Department of Education published an impressively large three-volume middle school seminar series of manuals with the following titles: *Psychological Education, Personal Education, and Achievement Education*.

Page nine of the psychological manual provides a "group contract" for each student to sign, promising to "keep these meetings private ... get permission of a group member or of the group as a whole before discussing what happens here with a parent or teacher."

The "Contents" page of the psychological manual divided its 169 pages into three subjects – Communications Training, Understanding Behavior, and Changing Behavior – revealing the intended inculcation of behavioral manipulation. The manual provides values clarification strategies that enable teachers and counselors to strip students of family- and church-taught values that influence their behavior. Per that 1982 manual, psychological mechanisms were provided and recommended as effective ways to mold students into individuals they should "be," regardless of what they learn. Outcome-based and workforce education soon followed.

PBIS

“PBIS is NOT a replacement for other effective social, emotional, and behavioral curricula and practices.”

– Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The best definition of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is revealed by analyzing the “g” item in a PBIS list entitled, “What is *NOT* PBIS?” Item “g” states: “PBIS is NOT a replacement for other (emphasis mine) effective social, emotional, and behavioral curricula and practices.” By acknowledging it does NOT replace “other” such curricula, PBIS self-defines as an “effective social, emotional, and behavioral curricula” with “practices.”

PBIS, as defined online, is “an evidence-based, data-driven¹ framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school’s sense of safety and support improved academic outcomes.” Reportedly, 27,000 schools nationwide have been trained in PBIS.

Of 1,300 Georgia schools that implemented PBIS, an estimated 1,000 have not been trained, although the decade-long Georgia Strategic Plan for PBIS: 2014-2024 began five years ago.

Under the category “New for FY2019,” PBIS announced the Jean Ramirez PBIS Scholarship program to be awarded two Georgia Southern University (GSU) students pursuing a PBIS graduate certificate. Opportunities for that scholarship began with the 2019-2020 school year.

ACTION – Oppose. Ask legislators to prohibit student data-mining and/or the sharing of student information.

Senate School Safety Study Committee

S.R. 935 of 2018 created a nine-member committee to study the (a) safety of Georgia’s K – 12 schools, (b) security of school buildings, facilities and buses, and (c) the response of state/local law enforcement and emergency services, students, and staff.

Committee Recommendations

1. The committee recommended a strong priority for student mental² health and counseling.
2. Update and modify the “See Something Send Something” application into a single, unified statewide system for anonymous reporting by students, faculty, and staff.
3. Georgia schools, social services, and law enforcement agencies should coordinate together to create, share, and curate secure individual student profiles³ throughout students’ careers.
4. The committee wants legislators to enact laws that create felony penalties for parents who, recklessly, allow children access to dangerous materials or weapons.
5. The committee proposes that especially trained veterans, military reserve members, law enforcement officers, and first responders act as “school safety coaches” in schools.

ACTION – OPPOSE bills authorizing student profiling and mental health strategies without parental consent.

Trump’s School Safety Commission

On December 18, 2018 the DOE federal school safety commission rejected calls for gun control. From the White House Roosevelt Room, President Trump explained, “It’s critical to have armed personnel available at a moment’s notice ... [they should be] people – teachers in many cases – that are the highest trained that you can get.... This is critical to the hardening of our schools against attack.” Also, he suggested that the media refuse to publicly name shooters.

¹ Student data collection (“data mining”) begins in kindergarten and is accumulated for use before and after graduation.

² Study committees created by both H.R. 1414 on page two and S.R. 935 above emphasize student mental health and mental health counselors to, ultimately, train students in politically correct (government approved) behavior and attitudes.

³ Student profiles created by schools will follow students and influence their lives far beyond their education years.

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