

THE RE-UP

Your monthly fix on all news: drug, policy, and law related.

What Do You Know About NARCAN?

Join LSSDP on **March 8, 2022 at lunchtime** in hosting Chris McFarland, an addiction and substance abuse counselor, in a discussion about NARCAN. *Free food* will be provided by LSSDP from 12:20 - 12:40 in Rick's, and the event begins at 12:45 in Room 218.

Drug Myth of the Month

Myth: NARCAN encourages substances users to take more drugs.

Fact: Research shows that NARCAN does not lead to more or riskier drug use. Some studies show that NARCAN leads to a decreased use of opioids.

Mental Health/ Substance Use Resource

If you, a fellow law student, or an attorney you know is struggling with mental health, substance use, or other challenges, Oregon Attorney Assistance Program (OAAP) has counselors available 24 hours a day by email, phone, and video teleconference. Please visit oaap.org or call (503) 226-1057 for assistance.



Federal Cannabis Reform

M.O.R.E Act(s)

In 2019, 2020, and 2021, federal legislators introduced **the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment, and Expungement Act (M.O.R.E. Act) (currently H.R.3617)** to the House of Representatives. In short, the MORE Act, if passed, would decriminalize marijuana federally. The first and second time around, the MORE Act passed in the House but then died in the Senate. The MORE Act was reintroduced in 2021 and on September 30, 2021, the House Committee on the Judiciary voted to recommend that bill be further considered by the entire House of Representatives. Since September 30th, no further legislative action has been taken on the MORE Act.

Growing bi-partisan support for the MORE Act led many to believe that federal decriminalization of marijuana would occur in 2021. However, the inability of federal legislators to agree upon

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Oregon Legislative Update

Updates on the bills discussed in last month's edition of the Re-Up:

SB 1510: On February 25th the Senate Committee recommended to pass the bill with amendments. A 3rd Senate reading will occur on March 1st.

SB 1579: On February 24th the Senate Committee recommended to pass the bill with amendments.

SB 1584: On February 25th the Senate Committee recommended to pass the bill with amendments. A 3rd Senate reading will occur on March 1st.

HB 4016: A work session in the Senate Committee on Rules took place on February 28th. The committee recommended to pass the bill.

HB4147: Referred to the House Committee on Rules on February 1st. No subsequent actions.

HJR 205: Public Hearing was held on February 22nd. Currently in House Committee on Rules. No subsequent actions.

the appropriate level of reform stopped the momentum of the bill right in its tracks. According to GovTrack, the MORE Act of 2021 has a 3% chance of being enacted. While it does not seem that the 2021 MORE Act will be enacted, momentum for cannabis reform at the federal level continues.

C.A.O. Act

Inspired by the goals of the MORE Act, **the Cannabis Administrative and Opportunity Act (C.A.O. Act)** was introduced to the House of Representatives on July 14, 2021. The Act would reach beyond decriminalization of marijuana by implementing a full-scale federal plan for cannabis reform. While the bill aims to “lift up people and communities who were unfairly targeted in the War on Drugs”, many are criticizing the bill’s tax structure (a 25% federal excise tax), claiming this could promote an illicit cannabis market rather than encourage business owners to be a part of the legal cannabis market. Public comments on the CAO Act have been taken under advisement by the drafters. The CAO Act has not been sent to a committee yet.

State’s Reform Act

On November 14, 2021, **the State’s Reform Act (S.R.A.) (H.B.5977)**, a republican-led bill, was introduced to the House of Representatives. Similar to the MORE and CAO Acts, it seeks to decriminalize cannabis and provide retroactive expungement for non-violent cannabis offenses. However, the SRA will limit federal social equity reform programs and will vest the authority of determining what level of cannabis reform (including prohibition) will occur, to the states. The SRA proposes the lowest tax structure for cannabis products (3% tax rate that cannot be increased for 10 years). As of January 6, 2022, it has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

SAFE Banking Act

On April 20, 2021, **the SAFE Banking Act (H.R.1996)** passed in the House of Representatives. The SAFE Banking Act, if passed, would allow cannabis business access to federally-backed financial institutions. It was received by the Senate and referred the the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Progress for the SAFE Banking Act has been slowed after it was stripped as an amendment from National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 on December 20, 2021.

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