



# Key Provisions of HB 1648, New Hampshire's 2020 Bill to Legalize Cannabis for Adults 21 and Older

**Sponsor:** Rep. Carol McGuire (R-Epsom)

**Cosponsors:** Sen. Martha Hennessey (D-Hanover), Sen. John Reagan (R-Deerfield), Rep. Renny Cushing (D-Hampton), Rep. Hershel Nunez (R-Pelham), Rep. Casey Conley (D-Dover), Rep. Jerry Knirk (D-Freedom), Rep. Rebecca McWilliams (D-Concord)

## Key Provisions:

- Adults 21 and older could possess up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an ounce of cannabis, five grams of hashish, and up to 300 mg of cannabis-infused products (currently a violation punishable by a civil fine).
- Adults 21 and older could cultivate up to six plants (including up to three mature ones) at home in a secure location that is not visible from other properties. They could also possess and process the cannabis produced from their plants at the same location.
- Adults could give cannabis to other adults, provided it was no more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an ounce of cannabis, five grams of hashish, up to 300 mg of cannabis-infused products, and/or three immature plants.
- Consuming cannabis in public would be punishable by a \$100 fine. (This is only for adults, as possession is already illegal for minors.)
- Violating the restrictions on cultivation (such as if cultivation is visible to the public) would be a violation punishable by a fine of up to \$750.
- Dangerous, volatile extraction would be a Class A misdemeanor.
- Adults could possess, make, and sell (to other adults) cannabis accessories.
- Penalties for minors would remain unchanged.

## Differences from the Current Decriminalization Framework:

- Adults 21 and older would no longer be penalized for possessing or producing cannabis. Under current law, possession of up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an ounce is punishable by a \$100 civil fine for a first offense, with the fine increasing for third or subsequent offenses. Cultivation typically carries up to a year in jail under existing law.
- Adults could produce their own cannabis-infused products. Under New Hampshire's decriminalization law, the civil fine only applies to cannabis-infused products purchased in a state where they are legal.

**NOTE:** HB 1648 is essentially the same bill as HB 656 (2017-2018), as amended and approved by the House on January 9, 2018, but with a few minor updates. For example, "marijuana" is changed to "cannabis" throughout