

It's Time to Treat Adults Like Grown-Ups

Support SB 651 and Legalize Cannabis

The Live Free State is the only place in New England that punishes adults 21 and older for relaxing with cannabis. This anti-liberty approach is at odds with the wishes of the vast majority of New Hampshire voters of all political backgrounds. Only 21% of voters support keeping adult-use cannabis illegal, according to an April 2025 UNH poll.

SB 651 would legalize adults' possession and secure home cultivation of modest amounts of cannabis. It would set up a taxed and regulated system of cannabis sales and impose sensible health and safety regulations, along with a 12.5% tax.

Legalization grows the economy and tax revenue.

- Legalizing cannabis for adults in NH would generate tens of millions in new tax revenue each year to improve residents' wellbeing. That money is flowing out of Granite Staters' pockets into neighboring states' coffers.
- Legalization would also create new small businesses and thousands of new jobs.

Prohibition ruins lives and diverts police resources.

- Cannabis records can cause people to lose their jobs, career paths, and housing. Even years after sentences are complete, cannabis records close the door of opportunity.

Legalization allows for regulation and control.

- Prohibition makes control impossible. Unregulated cannabis is often contaminated by molds, hazardous pesticides, and heavy metals. It is sometimes laced with hard drugs.
- Legalization allows for sensible regulations: requiring licensees to check IDs, lab testing, banning dangerous pesticides and additives, and mandating child-proof packaging.
- When cannabis sales are illegal, youth have easy access. Illicit sellers have no reason to check IDs, and youth are often recruited to sell illicit cannabis. In legal cannabis states, compliance checks show ID card requirements are working. CDC data shows youth cannabis use rates dropped post-legalization in most states.

Adults shouldn't be punished for using cannabis.

- Cannabis is far less toxic, less addictive, and less harmful to the body than alcohol. While the CDC attributes 117,000 deaths per year to the chronic health effects of alcohol, cannabis has not been shown to increase mortality.
- It is hypocritical and irrational to punish adults for the safer substance.
- Most cannabis consumers use it as an over-the-counter medicine. According to a survey by New Frontier, 61% of consumers use cannabis as a sleep-aid and 48% use it for pain relief.

The Live Free State shouldn't be a nanny state.

70%
of NH voters support legalizing cannabis

100%
of PA's neighboring states have legalized cannabis

over 20%
of NH adults admit to using cannabis in the past year

715
NH arrests for cannabis possession in 2024

\$27-51 million
in annual tax revenue