



The Constitution of the State of Ohio Article 1: Bill of Rights, Section 1

All Ohioans are, "by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety."

The Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment

The Bill of Rights in the Ohio Constitution was written in 1851, during the same time frame when the successful use of Cannabis as medicine was documented in the "Report of the Ohio State Medical Committee on Cannabis Indica."¹ Written by influential physicians and presented in 1860 at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Ohio State Medical Society held in White Sulphur Springs, Ohio, this report extolled "beneficial effects" of Cannabis on tetanus, neuralgia, insomnia, labor, convulsions, seizures, rheumatism, pain relief and a host of other conditions.

The Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment has been drafted to honor the inalienable rights belonging to all Ohioans in the spirit of the state's historic leadership in the field of medical Cannabis. This proposed ballot initiative, in accordance with Article 1: Bill of Rights, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution:

- Accords Ohio residents age 18 and older, who have a debilitating medical condition and meet eligibility requirements, the right to use, possess, acquire and produce Cannabis (marijuana). Children may qualify with the written consent of a parent or guardian. Eligibility will be initially tied to a list of over 30 debilitating medical conditions, which can be expanded.
- Permits eligible individuals or organizations to grow, process and purchase therapeutic Cannabis in various forms such as whole plant, tinctures, edibles and salves.
- Permits eligible Ohio residents to cultivate hemp for thousands of uses: paper, fuel, foods, building materials, clothing and more. Declassifies hemp as a drug and delegates its regulation to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- Protects eligible residents, not only from arrest and prosecution, but also from discrimination, invasion of privacy and breaches of the confidentiality with respect to their therapeutic use of Cannabis.
- Allows commercial production, distribution and taxation of both therapeutic Cannabis and industrial hemp.
- Establishes an Ohio Commission of Cannabis Control to regulate the therapeutic use of Cannabis and the organizations, individuals and industries that meet that need.
- Seats a nine-member Commission board, partly appointed by the amendment's Committee to Represent the Petitions and partly by the Governor. Limits the compensation of Commission board members and ensures that it serves the public interest by being diverse, non-partisan and transparent.
- Requires Commission rules and regulations to be established within one half year after approval by voters.
- Requires the Commission to be self-funded through its own fees and fines, which are to be affordable by those who incur them. Mandates the General Assembly to provide start-up capital for the Commission.
- Does not require the use of Cannabis in any form and does not invalidate existing smoking bans.
- Does not permit the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence, but requires a determination of impairment from therapeutic Cannabis use to rely on more than just the presence of metabolites.
- Encourages research and education into thousands of uses for Cannabis.
- Mandates that State of Ohio support uphold and defend the Amendment in accordance with the health and safety of Ohioans and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America.
- Has the potential to alleviate the suffering of over 100,000 Ohioans,² provide Ohio with an estimated \$50 million³ in tax revenue within five years of implementation and create an Ohio industry and the jobs to go along with it estimated at \$250 million² annually within just two years of establishment.

It's time to honor the inalienable rights of Ohioans to utilize the beneficial effects of Cannabis as codified by Ohio's forefathers over 150 years ago. It's time to pass the Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment.

Please review the Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment at <http://www.ohiorightsgroup.org/ohio-cannabis-rights-amendment-full-text>

¹ "Report of the Ohio State Medical Committee on Cannabis Indica," <http://mapinc.org/url/hywipU4Q>

² Based on the number of "current" marijuana users age 26+ in the State of Ohio per the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2008. <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8State/AppC.htm>

³ Calculated from sales forecasts based on the Ohio Medical Cannabis Amendment #1 which laid out a regulatory system for Cannabis in Ohio based on the system employed for wine and vineyards. <http://mapinc.org/url/QBRI3iV7>

[Donate to support of the Ohio Cannabis Right Amendment!](#)

The Ohio Rights Group is a registered non-profit in the State of Ohio. Donations are not tax deductible.