



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R 96- 2025

Introduced by City Council and the Administration on July 23, 2025

A resolution supporting HB 1200, the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana by adults, with sales through state-owned stores and Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed budget which has included a plan to legalize and tax the sale and use of recreational marijuana.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, polls have consistently shown as more states [pass laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use](#), Americans continue to favor legalization of both medical and recreational use of the drug. Just 11% of Americans say that the drug should not be legal at all (PEW); and

WHEREAS, In Allentown, Pennsylvania, recreational cannabis remains illegal under state law. However, the city has decriminalized the possession of small amounts (30 grams or less of marijuana or 8 grams or less of hashish), resulting in fines instead of arrest and potential jail time, expressing its intent that this should happen at the state level; and.

WHEREAS, Democrats in the state House recently to legalize recreational use of marijuana by adults, with sales through state-owned stores. That sends the question of whether Pennsylvania will follow its neighbors' leads on cannabis to the Republican-led state Senate. HB 1200 proposes a 12% tax on cannabis products plus 6% sales tax. A fiscal note prepared with the bill estimates tax, license fees and profits under the system would provide more than \$1.1 billion in 2026-2027. It would allow people 21 and older to purchase and consume a personal amount of marijuana, allow people who pay for a permit to grow up to four plants and provides for fines for underage use. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, which regulates alcoholic beverages and operates state wine and spirits stores, would be responsible for purchasing cannabis products and operating cannabis stores.

WHEREAS, Gov. Josh Shapiro has included a plan to legalize and tax the sale and use of recreational marijuana in his last two budget proposals. His current proposal estimates that a 20% tax on the wholesale price of recreational marijuana products would generate \$15.6 million plus an additional \$11.4 million in sales tax revenue for the 2025-26 budget; and

WHEREAS, while Pennsylvania is behind neighboring Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, and losing revenue on the sales, Pa. also has the benefit of learning from their mistakes.

WHEREAS, Currently, marijuana is fully legal in 24 states and Washington DC., including Pa.' border states: New Jersey, Maryland and Ohio; 46 states, Washington DC and three U.S. territories have approved some form of cannabis for medicinal use, and a number of states have decriminalized the use; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Allentown that the Council hereby supports HB 1200 the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana by adults and Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed budget which has included a plan to legalize and tax the sale and use of recreational marijuana.

