

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 420 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA, MADDEN, McNEILL, PARKER, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, WAXMAN, DELLOSO, PROBST, KHAN, FLEMING AND CERRATO, MAY 30, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 7, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States, President of the
2 United States, Attorney General of the United States, Drug
3 Enforcement Administration and Department of Health and Human
4 Services to remove cannabis as a Schedule I controlled
5 substance under the Controlled Substances Act.

6 WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91-513, 84
7 Stat. 1236) was enacted by the 91st Congress and became
8 effective May 1, 1971; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the Controlled Substances Act, a Schedule I
10 controlled drug or other substance is considered to have a high
11 potential for abuse and dependence, no currently accepted
12 medical use in treatment and a lack of accepted safety for use
13 under medical supervision; and

14 WHEREAS, Cannabis is currently a Schedule I controlled drug
15 or other substance under the Controlled Substances Act; and

16 WHEREAS, There are no exceptions under Federal law for the
17 application of cannabis for medicinal purposes even if the use
18 is sanctioned by State law; and

1       WHEREAS, As of March 2023, a total of 38 states and four  
2 territories regulate cannabis for the recommendation,  
3 registration and dispensing for approved patients; and

4       WHEREAS, As of June 2022, at least 21 states, two territories  
5 and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation to  
6 regulate cannabis for adult use; and

7       WHEREAS, Scientific research has shown cannabis may be  
8 helpful in treating symptoms of epilepsy, nausea and vomiting  
9 associated with cancer chemotherapy, loss of appetite and weight  
10 loss associated with HIV/AIDS, chronic pain, multiple sclerosis,  
11 anxiety, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome,  
12 Tourette syndrome, posttraumatic stress disorder and sleep  
13 disorder; and

14       WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has called for  
15 cannabis to be removed from the most restrictive category of the  
16 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961; and

17       WHEREAS, The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
18 voted to reclassify cannabis from the strict Schedule IV  
19 classification of the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs that  
20 includes dangerous and highly addictive drugs such as heroin;  
21 and

22       WHEREAS, Under the Controlled Substances Act, other Schedule  
23 I controlled substances include heroin, and Schedule II  
24 controlled substances include cocaine, methamphetamine,  
25 hydrocodone, oxycodone and fentanyl; and

26       WHEREAS, In 2021 alone, more than 70,000 Americans died from  
27 drug overdoses involving synthetic opioids, and the latest  
28 provisional drug overdose death counts through May 2022 suggest  
29 an acceleration of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids  
30 during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, Rescheduling cannabis will establish an important  
2 step in harmonizing Federal and State policy to improve public  
3 health, reduce criminal justice expenditures, raise tax revenue  
4 and usher in economic growth; and

5 WHEREAS, Removing cannabis as a Schedule I controlled  
6 substance will facilitate medical research, ensure patient  
7 access and remove Federal prohibitions; and

8 ~~WHEREAS, Billions in taxpayer dollars are spent every year in~~<--  
9 ~~Federal expenditures attributable to cannabis prohibition~~  
10 ~~enforcement in the criminal justice system; and~~

11 ~~WHEREAS, Federal mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug~~  
12 ~~offenses result in nonviolent cannabis offenders serving long~~  
13 ~~sentences often disproportionate to their crime; and~~

14 WHEREAS, The United States ~~Attorney General~~ DEPARTMENT OF <--  
15 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES can and should ~~initiate~~ COMPLETE a <--  
16 review process to consider available evidence and change a  
17 controlled substance's schedule classification; and

18 WHEREAS, Under this action, the Drug Enforcement  
19 Administration, in conjunction with the United States Department  
20 of Health and Human Services, would be directed to carry out a  
21 review process to reschedule a controlled substance, such as  
22 when the Drug Enforcement Administration rescheduled hydrocodone  
23 combination products or opioid-based prescription painkillers  
24 from Schedule III to Schedule II in 2014; and

25 WHEREAS, Congress has the authority to pass a law that  
26 changes or restricts a controlled substance's schedule  
27 classification; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
29 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
30 States, President of the United States, Attorney General of the

1 United States, Drug Enforcement Administration and Department of  
2 Health and Human Services to remove cannabis as a Schedule I  
3 controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act; and be  
4 it further

5       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
6 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
7 member of Congress from Pennsylvania, and to the President of  
8 the United States, the Attorney General of the United States,  
9 the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the  
10 Secretary of Health and Human Services.