

Marijuana Business – Regulations Summary

An ever-increasing number of states have passed legislation legalizing marijuana for medical uses and some states have even legalized the herb's recreational use. State laws determine who may cultivate or sell marijuana and under what conditions they may do so. As the list of states where medical and/or adult use marijuana is legal continues to grow.

Regulations by the state

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia currently have laws broadly legalizing marijuana in some form. Three other states will soon join them after recently passing measures permitting use of medical marijuana.

Seven states and the District of Columbia have adopted the most expansive laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Most recently, California, Massachusetts, Maine and Nevada all passed measures in November legalizing recreational marijuana. California's Prop. 64 measure allows adults 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and grow up to six plants in their homes. Other tax and licensing provisions of the law will not take effect until January 2018.

Several legislatures in states recently passing legalization measures are debating regulatory proposals around the use and sale of marijuana. Massachusetts lawmakers are weighing bills that would lower the amount residents can legally possess and place restrictions on retail stores. In Nevada, one proposal calls for businesses to obtain permits allowing for the public use of marijuana.

A number of states have also decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Some medical marijuana laws are broader than others, with types of medical conditions that allow for treatment varying from state to state. Several states (not shown on the map below) have passed narrow laws allowing residents to possess cannabis only if they suffer from certain rare medical illnesses.

Medical marijuana laws recently passing in Arkansas, Florida and North Dakota have yet to become effective.

In eight states, Nevada, Maine, Colorado, Washington, California, Massachusetts, Alaska, and Oregon, the sale and possession of marijuana is legal for both medical and recreational use; and Washington DC has legalized personal use but not commercial sale. You can find all the state to state regulations online at www.statelaws.findlaw.com/criminal-laws/marijuana

Green Rock – Insurance Brokerage

Green Rock Life Sciences was founded to deliver innovative risk management products and insurance program management to the life sciences community and is a partner in developing and facing the business challenges of the cannabis and medical marijuana industry.