The Passage of Issue 2 Legalized Adult-Use Marijuana in Ohio: What Individuals Need to Know Now

When will Ohioans be able to purchase recreational marijuana from licensed dispensaries?

Adult-use dispensaries are likely to begin operating sometime in the summer or early fall of 2024. The Division of Cannabis Control in the Department of Commerce will begin accepting applications for adult-use businesses and testing licenses within six months (early June) of Issue 2’s effective date. Licenses are then required to be allocated within nine months (early September) following Issue 2’s enactment, although the Department of Commerce could act in a speedier fashion.

Until the first recreational dispensary opens in the state of Ohio, Ohioans that do not have an Ohio medical marijuana card will not be able to lawfully purchase marijuana in the state of Ohio.

Key takeaways (if there are no changes by the Ohio General Assembly):

- Ohioans 21 years and older are legally allowed to consume or possess cannabis on and after December 7, 2023.
- Issue 2 legalizes 2.5 ounces of adult-use cannabis in any form except adult-use extract; and 15 grams of adult use cannabis in the form of adult use extract. A customer can purchase 2.5 ounces per day from a licensed adult-use dispensary.
- Individuals may grow up to six plants for personal use, with a limit of 12 plants per residence, as of December 7, 2023.
- An individual is allowed to gift up to six plants of marijuana without renumeration, as well as 2.5 ounces of adult-use cannabis in any form except adult-use extract; and 15 grams of adult-use cannabis in the form of adult-use extract.
- There are no limitations on how individuals 21 years and older may consume marijuana (ex. Smoking, vaping, edibles, etc.) on and after December 7, 2023.
- Medical marijuana cardholders will continue to be able to purchase their medication through licensed medical marijuana dispensaries.
Individuals younger than 21 years cannot lawfully possess or consume recreational marijuana.

Purchasing marijuana outside of a licensed dispensary will remain unlawful even after December 7, 2023.

Until the first adult-use dispensary opens in the state of Ohio, Ohioans that do not have an Ohio medical marijuana card will not be able to lawfully purchase marijuana in the state of Ohio.

No one is allowed to sell marijuana without an appropriate license.

Public consumption of marijuana is prohibited.

Individuals are prohibited from operating a vehicle, motor vehicle, streetcar, trackless trolley, bike, watercraft, or aircraft while using marijuana or if specific levels of marijuana or its metabolites are present in an individual’s urine or blood.

Individuals are prohibited from smoking, vaporizing, or using any other combustible marijuana product while in a vehicle, motor vehicle, streetcar, trackless trolley, bike, watercraft, or aircraft.

Purchasing marijuana in other states, such as Michigan, and bringing the product to Ohio remains illegal.

Issue 2 provides no protections for individuals that currently own or are seeking to purchase a firearm. Individuals are still prohibited from purchasing and owning firearms if they consume marijuana.

Issue 2 does not provide employment protections. Employers are allowed to continue workplace policies prohibiting marijuana consumption.

Issue 2 does not provide housing protections. Landlords are allowed to prohibit consumption of marijuana on their properties.

There is no guarantee that adult-use businesses will be available in your locality. Localities can adopt ordinances to prohibit adult-use marijuana businesses.

Learn more on our resource page: go.osu.edu/cannabis-crossroads

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