House to Vote on Federal Cannabis Legalization For the First Time

The house, which is currently under Democratic control, will vote on legalizing cannabis at the federal level for the first time in history. The house would vote on the act during the week of September 21st. The bill, which is sponsored by Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y), would remove cannabis from the list of controlled substances at the federal level while expunging some cannabis-related criminal records. It would still be up to each state to determine the regulations for cannabis sales. The bill is expected to pass in the house but fail in the Republican-controlled senate.

> *Marijuana is currently regulated by a patchwork of laws at the state and federal levels, and Goers said legalization at the federal level would add "normalization" for businesses and states by legalizing marijuana at the federal level.*
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> *House will vote on federal marijuana legalization for the first time, bill's future in Senate uncertain*

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An overwhelming majority (91%) of Americans support the legalization of medical or recreational cannabis usage. A majority (59%) of Americans support both recreational and medical usage, whereas 32% think it should only be legal for medical purposes. While the results vary within the major political parties, a majority of both republicans and democrats support legalization.

Over the course of their presidencies, both Obama and Trump declined to enforce federal prohibitions against states that made cannabis legal for both recreational and medicinal use.

While in office, Obama supported cannabis decriminalization but not legalization. Trump has said that he respects each state’s decision on whether or not to legalize cannabis.

Current democratic nominee and former vice president Joe Biden supports the decriminalization of cannabis, as well as the expunging of criminal records for cannabis usage but has not come out in support of legalization.

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The varying laws between state and federal levels can make business for cannabis dispensaries and other related businesses complicated. In some cases, banks will not work with dispensaries due to federal regulations, making dispensaries cash only and more vulnerable to theft. Legalizing cannabis at the federal level would hopefully make it easier for cannabis businesses to operate.