

## January 2018

Rand Paul (R-KY) is attempting to include [2 amendments that would provide protections for state legal cannabis operations](#). The amendments, both attached to HR 195, would restrict the Department of Justice from interfering with state businesses or penalizing banking institutions that have cannabis customers.

Legislators in Hawaii have filed a bill that would protect patients from state and federal interference. [SB 2217](#) clarifies that medical use of cannabis is not considered to be a state or federal crime.

Legislators in Massachusetts are joining other states in submitting bills to preclude state agencies from assisting federal attempts at interfering with cannabis businesses. The [Refusal of Complicity Act](#) argues that taxpayers should not bear the burden for enforcement efforts in conflict with voter preference.

A bipartisan group of legislators in Pennsylvania is seeking a resolution to gun ownership rights concerns from medical cannabis patients. [SR 253](#) would amend the Gun Control Act of 1968 to protect the constitutional rights of patients.

Vermont Governor Phil Scott [announced his intention to sign H 511](#), a bill that will legalize cannabis use for adults 21 and over. Once signed, the law will take effect on July 1st and permit the home cultivation of 2 plants.

A bill to replace jail time with a fine has been introduced in Virginia. [SB 954](#) would also allow first-time offenses to be expunged. Fines collected would go to the Heroin and Prescription Opioid Experiment Fund.

## Jan 15

In response to AG Jeff Sessions rescission of the Cole Memo, Democratic Representative Barbara Lee introduced the [REFER Act of 2018](#), also known as the Restraining Excessive Federal Enforcement & Regulations of Cannabis Act. The act aims to expand the protection of Rohrabacher-Farr and ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to after state-sanctioned cannabis activities.

A group consisting of 69 bipartisan members sent a letter to congressional leaders [expressing their concern with the recent moves from the Department of Justice](#). Rep Jared Polis, from

Colorado, is urging leadership to include his amendment in the funding bill set to be voted on January 19th. If included, the amendment would preclude the DOJ from using funds to go after cannabis businesses in legal states.

[HR 1227](#), an act that would end Federal cannabis prohibition, received 9 new cosponsors in the last week bringing the total to 24.

The Respect State Marijuana Laws Act of 2017, known as [HR 975](#), is up to 39 cosponsors having added 15 new supporters in since the DOJ Cole Memo position was announced.

Senator [Nicholas Scutari has introduced legislation](#) that would legalize cannabis for adult use in New Jersey. If passed, the state would regulate cannabis similar to alcohol and tobacco with adult permitted, but not in public.

The New Hampshire House overwhelmingly passed a cannabis legalization bill last week 207-139. If approved by the Senate, persons at least 21 years old will be able to cultivate 3 plants at home and possess up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an ounce of cannabis flower.

Legislators in Vermont moved a measure to legalize cannabis forward in spite of aggressive rhetoric from the DOJ. If passed, residents 21 and over would be allowed to possess up to an ounce of cannabis flower, cultivate 2 mature plants and have 4 immature plants.

In Florida, Democrat Randolph Bracy III put forth [S1602](#), a bill that would create a civil violation for certain amounts of cannabis possession statewide. – This bill Died in Criminal Justice – 3.10.2018

Mississippi Republican Congressman Joel Bomgar introduced the MS Medical Marijuana Pilot Program. The therapeutic use program will allow up to 2.5 ounces of medical cannabis for patients suffering from cancer, glaucoma, HIV, seizures, ALS, Crohn's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Intractable pain among in addition to other "serious medical conditions" added by the Department of Health. [Click here for more on HB 391](#). – This bill Died In Committee – 1.30.18

New Mexico legislators have pre-filed [State Joint Resolution 4](#), which would legalize adult use cannabis pending the passage of regulations that monitor the seed to sale production process. Taxes generated would go to the states general fund.