

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN MARYLAND

Legal Timeline*

JANUARY 1, 2023

POSSESSION LIMIT

The personal use amount becomes up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis. From Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2023, you could get a \$100 civil fine for possession of the personal use amount. If you are caught with a civil use amount (between 1.5 to 2.5 ounces) of cannabis, you could get a \$250 fine. The possession of more than 2.5 ounces is a misdemeanor offense that carries a penalty of 6 months in jail or a \$1000 fine.

PUBLIC USE

Smoking in public will bring a \$250 fine for a first offense and a \$500 fine for a second or subsequent offense.

PARAPHERNALIA

Cannabis paraphernalia excluded from definitions of paraphernalia in Criminal Law (notably things like scales and bongos).

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

PWID is a misdemeanor punishable by 3 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine.

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Automatic expungement of past simple possession charges that occurred before July 1, 2023. Goes into effect January 1, but must be completed by July 1, 2024.

RESENTENCING

A person incarcerated for simple possession may apply for resentencing. If they are not serving a concurrent sentence for another crime, they must be released.

PETITION TO EXPUNGE

Anyone with a PWID conviction from before 2023 can petition to expunge it 3 years after they have completed their sentence, including probation and parole.

JUNE 30, 2023

POSSESSION LIMIT - CIVIL FINES EXPIRE

The 6-month period of time expires (January 1 - June 30, 2023) when people 21 and up could get civil fines for possession of the civil use amount (1.5 to 2.5 ounces of cannabis) and the personal use amount (up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis). People 21 and up will no longer be at risk of getting a civil fine for possessing the personal use amount.

JULY 1, 2023

AGE TO USE

For people 21 and up, the civil use amount is still 1.5 to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and carries a \$250 fine. However, it will be legal to possess the personal use amount of 1.5 ounces of cannabis.

GROWING YOUR OWN

Cultivation of 2 plants per residence becomes legal. Growing more than the legal limit is a misdemeanor offense that is subject to a penalty of imprisonment for up to 3 years and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.

AGE TO SHARE

For people 21 and up, adult sharing is permitted.

AGE RESTRICTION

For people under 21, you could get a \$100 fine for using or possessing the personal use amount, and a \$250 find for using or possessing the civil use amount. People under 21 may be required to appear in court for citations.

JULY 1, 2024

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Deadline for automatic expungement of simple possession charges you got before July 1, 2023.

***CONTINGENT ON REFERENDUM RESULTS**