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Senator Brandes and Representative Smith File Adult Use Marijuana Legislation

Bill proposes safe, regulated market for adult use marijuana

This week **Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg)** and **Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando)** filed [SB 710 /HB 343](#), Availability of Marijuana for Adult Use. The bill establishes a robust and free-market regulatory approach to the governance of cultivation, processing, and retail sales of both medical and adult use marijuana in Florida for those over 21 years of age.

“For me this is a liberty issue. We should give adult Floridians the freedom to make their own choices when it comes to cannabis,” stated **Senator Brandes**. “It’s not a matter of if, but when, Floridians will have access to adult use marijuana. This bill allows the legislature to lead on an issue a super majority of Floridians support.”

This legislation:

Creates multiple license categories, including growing, processing, and retailing, and establishes a new transportation license

Allows contracting and wholesaling by growers to processors or retailers

Permits adults over 21 access to an MMTC without a medical marijuana card

Allows eligible individuals to petition the court for resentencing or expungement

Prohibits marijuana from being utilized in public spaces

Maintains home-rule by allowing counties and municipalities to prohibit or limit the number of MMTCs within their jurisdiction

“More harm has been caused by the prohibition of marijuana than by marijuana itself,” **Sen. Brandes** said. “I believe decriminalizing marijuana will enable law enforcement to deal with more serious crimes and allow them to have a greater impact in our communities with their limited resources.”

Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith offered the following statement:

“The need to end Florida’s prohibition of responsible adult use of cannabis is long overdue. This bill creates a sensible bipartisan framework for legalization that can earn the support needed to pass the Florida legislature. It doesn’t include everything I’d like to see, but it’s the fresh start Floridians deserve to finally move past the draconian cannabis prohibition era.”

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