This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 86 (H.511). Crimes and criminal procedure; marijuana

An act relating to eliminating penalties for possession of limited amounts of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older

This act removes civil and criminal penalties for possession of one ounce of marijuana and two mature and four immature marijuana plants by adults 21 years of age or older. Any marijuana harvested from the plants allowed does not count toward the one-ounce possession limit. Each dwelling unit is limited to two mature marijuana plants and four immature marijuana plants regardless of how many persons 21 years of age or older reside in the dwelling unit. Personal cultivation of marijuana may only occur: (A) on property lawfully in the possession of the cultivator or with the written consent of the person in lawful possession of the property; and (B) in an enclosure that is screened from public view and is secure so that access is limited to only the cultivator and persons 21 years of age or older who have permission from the cultivator. Consumption of marijuana in a public place or in a vehicle is prohibited as is possession of an open container of marijuana in a vehicle, and violations are subject to civil penalties. Various crimes are created related to dispensing marijuana to a person under 21 years of age, enabling marijuana consumption by a person under 21 years of age, and using marijuana in a vehicle while in the presence of a person under 18 years of age.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on January 22, 2018