

The Oregon Cannabis Tax Act

Whereas the people of the State of Oregon find that Cannabis hemp is an environmentally beneficial crop that:

- (a) Yields several times more fiber, for paper and textiles, than any other plant;
- (b) Yields cloth and paper of superior strength and durability without the application of pesticides during cultivation and without producing cancer-causing pollutants during processing;
- (c) Yields more seed oil and protein, for prodigious and ecological biodiesel fuel, plastics and nutritious food, than any other plant;
- (d) Yields more biomass than any other plant outside the tropics, though it grows well in the tropics too, and grows faster than any other plant on earth in the temperate and cooler climates;
- (e) Yields a substance that relieves the suffering of many ill people without life-threatening side effects; and,

Whereas the people find that federal and corporate misinformation campaigns that economically benefit small groups of people have suppressed the information above and the fact that:

- (a) George Washington grew cannabis for more than 30 years and, while he was President, said, "the artificial preparation of hemp is really a curiosity" and told his Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, that he was, "suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Hemp";
- (b) Thomas Jefferson invented a device to process cannabis, and cannabis fiber was used for most clothing and paper production until the invention of the cotton gin;
- (c) Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania, who spoke at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1787 more than any other delegate and of whom James Madison said, "the style and finish of the Constitution properly belongs to the pen of Gouverneur Morris," wrote a paper he sent to Thomas Jefferson called, "Notes Respecting Tobacco" that compared cannabis and tobacco and concluded that cannabis "is to be preferred"; and,

Whereas the people find that cannabis is Oregon's largest cash crop, indicating that cannabis prohibition has failed; and,

Whereas the people find that, despite misinformation concocted to justify cannabis prohibition, the courts of Alaska, Hawaii and Michigan have noted presidential commission findings, scientific studies, and learned treatises which:

- (a) Characterize cannabis as a relatively nonaddictive and comparatively harmless euphoriant used and cultivated for more than 10,000 years without a single lethal overdose;
- (b) Demonstrate that moderate cannabis use causes very little impairment of psychomotor functions; reveal no significant physical, biochemical, or mental abnormalities attributable solely to cannabis use; and that long-term, heavy cannabis users do not deviate significantly from their social peers in terms of mental function;
- (c) Disprove the "stepping stone" or "gateway drug" argument that cannabis use leads to other drugs; rather, that lies taught about cannabis, once discovered, destroy the credibility of valid educational messages about moderate and responsible use and valid warnings against other truly dangerous drugs;
- (d) Indicate that cannabis users are less likely to commit violent acts than alcohol users, refute the argument that cannabis causes criminal behavior, and suggest that most users avoid aggressive behavior, even in the face of provocation; and
- (e) Declare that cannabis use does not constitute a public health problem of any significant dimension; finds no rational basis for treating cannabis as more dangerous than alcohol; and

Whereas the people of the State of Oregon find that cannabis does not cause the social ills that its prohibition was intended to guard against; rather, that most of the social ills attributed to cannabis result from its unreasonable prohibition which:

- (a) Provides incentives to traffic in marijuana instead of limiting its prevalence, since almost all cannabis users evade the prohibition, even though drastically expanding public safety budgets have reduced funding for other vital services such as education;
- (b) Fosters a black market that exploits children, provides an economic subsidy for gangs, and sells cannabis of questionable purity and uncertain potency;
- (c) Generates enormous, untaxed, illicit profits that debase our economy and corrupt our justice system; and,
- (d) Wastes police resources, clogs our courts, and drains the public budget to no good effect; and,

Whereas, the people recall that alcohol prohibition had caused many of the same social ills before being replaced by regulatory laws which, ever since, have granted alcohol users the privilege of buying alcohol from state licensees, imposed strict penalties protecting children, delivered alcohol of sure potency, and generated substantial public revenues; and,

Whereas the people hold that cannabis prohibition is a sumptuary law of a nature repugnant to our constitution's framers and which is so unreasonable and liberticidal as to:

- (a) Arbitrarily violate the rights of cannabis users to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure as guaranteed to them by Article 1, Section 9 of the Oregon Constitution;

(b) Unreasonably impose felony burdens on the cannabis users while the state grants special privileges to alcohol users, which violates Article 1, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution;

(c) Unnecessarily proscribe consumption of a "herb bearing seed" given to humanity in Genesis 1:29, thereby violating their unqualified religious rights under Article 1, Section 3 and their Natural Rights under Article 1, Section 33 of the Oregon Constitution;

(d) Violates the individual's right to privacy and numerous other Natural and Constitutional Rights reserved to the people under Article 1, Section 33 of the Oregon Constitution;

(e) Violates the state's right to regulate and tax commerce within the state, as reserved to states under the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, thereby abdicating control to illicit markets; and,

(f) Irrationally subvert the ends to which, in its Preamble, the Oregon Constitution was ordained and the purposes, in Article 1, Section 1, for which our government was instituted; now, Therefore, the people find that the constitutional ends of justice, order, and the perpetuation of liberty; the governmental purposes of preserving the peace, safety, and happiness of the people; and the vitality of the other constitutional provisions cited above, demand the replacement of a costly, self-defeating prohibition with regulatory laws controlling cannabis cultivation, potency, sale, and use; defining and prohibiting cannabis abuse; protecting children with a comprehensive drug education program and strict penalties for the sale or provision of cannabis to minors; funding state drug abuse treatment programs; promoting Oregon hemp for fuel, fiber and food; and raising substantial revenue for public use.

Wherefore, be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon, the laws relating to cannabis are revised as follows:

Section 1. This Act shall operate uniformly throughout Oregon and fully replace and supersede all statutes, municipal charter enactments, and local ordinances relating to cannabis, except those relating to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. This Act is a scientific experiment by the people of the state of Oregon to lower the misuse of, illicit traffic in and harm associated with cannabis and will set up voluntary studies of cannabis users under ORS 474.045 (b) and other studies.

Section 2. A new state commission is hereby created and shall be named the Oregon Cannabis Commission, or the OCC. The OCC shall regulate the sale of cannabis and cultivation of cannabis for sale and shall assure the high quality of cannabis grown and processed under this Act. The OCC shall consist of seven commissioners. Initially, seven commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor before December 31, 2012 for a term of one year and they shall promulgate administrative rules, create systems and begin licensing applicants by February 28, 2013. Thereafter, five commissioners shall be elected at large by growers and processors licensed under ORS 474.035 for a term of one year, and two commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of two years. The OCC shall work to promote Oregon cannabis products in all legal national and international markets.

Section 3. This Act, in Section 4, creates an ORS chapter 474 titled the "Oregon Cannabis Tax Act." Legislative Counsel shall move and renumber existing provisions of chapter 474.

Section 4. 474.005 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Abuse" means repetitive or excessive drug use such that the individual fails to fulfill a statutory or common law duty, including but not limited to the duties owed by parents to children, by motorists to pedestrians and other motorists, and by employees to employers, fellow employees, and the public.

(2) "Cannabis" means the flowering tops and all parts, derivatives, or preparations of the cannabis plant, also known as "marijuana," containing cannabinoids in concentrations established by the commission to be psychoactive, but does not include "hemp" as defined by ORS 474.005(5).

(3) "Commission" means the the Oregon Cannabis Commission, or OCC.

(4) "Cultivation" means growing the cannabis plant.

(5) "Hemp" means the seeds, stems, and stalks of the cannabis plant, and all other parts, products, and byproducts of the cannabis plant not containing cannabinoids in concentrations established by the commission to be psychoactive. Seeds and starts of all varieties of cannabis shall be considered hemp.

474.015 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the "Oregon Cannabis Tax Act."

474.025 Purpose of the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act. This chapter shall be liberally construed so as to minimize the misuse and abuse of cannabis; to prevent the illicit sale or provision of cannabis to minors; and to protect the peace, safety, and happiness of Oregonians while preserving the largest measure of liberty consistent with the above purposes.

474.035 Powers and duties of the commission, licenses for cultivation and processing. Hemp fiber, protein, oil not regulated.

(1) The commission shall have the powers necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. It shall make such rules and regulations as will discourage and minimize the diversion of cannabis to illicit sale or use within the state, the illicit importation and sale of cannabis cultivated or processed outside the state, and the illicit export or removal of cannabis from the state. The commission's jurisdiction shall extend to any person licensed under this chapter to cultivate or process cannabis, but shall not extend to any person who manufactures products from hemp. Hemp production for fiber, protein and oil shall be

allowed without regulation, license nor fee. No federal license shall be required to cultivate hemp in Oregon.

(2) The commission shall issue to any qualified applicant a license to cultivate cannabis for sale to the commission. The license shall specify the areas, plots, and extent of lands to be cultivated. The commission shall equitably apportion the purchase of cannabis among all licensees. The commission shall purchase and sell cannabis products of the quality and grade set by market demand.

(3) The commission shall issue licenses to process cannabis to qualified applicants who submit successful bids. Licensed processors shall, as specified by the commission, contract, cure, extract, refine, mix, and package the entire cannabis crop and deliver it to the commission's physical possession as soon as possible, but not later than four months after harvest.

474.045 Commission to sell cannabis at cost for medical purposes. The Commission shall sell cannabis at cost, including OCC expenses:

(a) To Oregon and other states' pharmacies and OCC stores for use under a physician's order for glaucoma, nausea related to chemotherapy, AIDS, or any other condition for which a physician finds cannabis to be an effective treatment; and,

(b) To recognized Oregon medical research facilities for use in research directed toward expanding medical and sociological knowledge of the composition, effects, uses, and abuse of cannabis, to include studies of cannabis purchasers voluntarily participating through OCC stores under ORS 474.055.

474.055 Commission to set price and sell through OCC stores. The commission shall sell cannabis through OCC stores and shall set the retail price of cannabis to generate profits for revenue to be applied to the purposes noted in ORS chapter 474 and to minimize incentives to purchase cannabis elsewhere or to purchase cannabis for resale or for removal to other states.

474.065 Qualifications of purchasers and licensees, effect of conviction.

(1) To be qualified to purchase, cultivate, or process cannabis, a person must be over 21 years of age and not have been convicted of sale of cannabis to minors or convicted under this chapter of unlicensed cultivation or sale of cannabis.

(2) Conviction for cultivation or sale of cannabis to other than minors, when committed prior to the effective date of this chapter, shall not be grounds for denial of an application for a license under this chapter.

(3) The cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal, noncommercial use by an adult shall not require a license nor registration.

474.075 Disposition of license fees and profits from sale of cannabis by state.

(1) The commission shall collect license fees which shall be calculated and continually appropriated to defray the commission's administrative costs of issuing licenses under this chapter and the Attorney General's costs of litigation in defense of the validity of this chapter's provisions and in defense of persons subjected to criminal or civil liability for actions licensed or required under this chapter.

(2) All money from the sale of cannabis shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to a cannabis account, from which sufficient money shall be continually appropriated:

(a) To reimburse the commission for the costs of purchasing, processing, testing, grading, shipping, and selling cannabis; of regulating, inspecting, and auditing licensees; and of research studies required by this chapter; and,

(b) To reimburse the Attorney General's office for costs of enforcing this chapter's criminal provisions.

(c) To reimburse OCC contractors for their expenses and labor with 15 percent of gross sales.

(3) All money remaining in the cannabis account after reimbursement of the related commission and Attorney General costs shall be profits which the State Treasurer shall distribute quarterly as follows:

(a) Ninety percent shall be credited to the state's general fund to finance state programs.

(b) Seven percent shall be credited to the Department of Human Resources and shall be continually appropriated to fund various drug abuse treatment programs on demand.

(c) One percent shall be credited to create and fund an agricultural state committee for the promotion of Oregon hemp fiber, protein and oil crops and associated industries. This new state committee shall be named the "Oregon Hemp Fiber and Food Committee."

(d) One percent shall be credited to create and fund an agricultural state committee to develop and promote biodiesel fuel production from hemp seeds. This new state committee shall be named the "Oregon Hemp Biodiesel Committee."

(e) One percent shall be distributed to the state's school districts, appropriated by enrollment, and shall be continually appropriated to fund a drug education program which shall:

(I) Emphasize a citizen's rights and duties under our social compact and to explain to students how drug abusers might injure the rights of others by failing to fulfill such duties;

(II) Persuade students to decline to consume psychoactive substances by providing them with accurate information about the threat these drugs pose to their mental and physical development; and,

(III) Persuade students that if, as adults, they choose to consume psychoactive substances, they must nevertheless responsibly fulfill all duties they owe others.

474.085 Commission to establish psychoactive concentrations of cannabinoids. The commission, based on findings made in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy and cannabis and hemp farmers to cannabinoid concentrations which produce psychoactivity, the economics of residual cannabis extraction, and strains of hemp that produce better quality and quantity of fiber, protein and oil, shall establish reasonable concentrations of cannabinoids deemed psychoactive under this chapter.

474.095 Commission to set standards, test purity, grade potency of cannabis, label contents.

(1) The commission, in consultation with the State Board of Pharmacy, shall set standards which the commission shall apply:

(a) To test and reject cannabis containing adulterants in concentrations known to harm people; and,

(b) To grade cannabis potency by measuring the concentrations of psychoactive cannabinoids it contains.

(2) The commission shall affix to cannabis packages a label which shall bear the state seal, a certification of purity, a grade of potency, the date of harvest, a warning as to the potential for abuse, and notice of laws prohibiting resale, removal from the state, public consumption, and provision and sale to minors.

474.105 Commission may limit purchases. The commission may limit the quantity of cannabis purchased by a person at one time or over any length of time and may refuse to sell cannabis to any person who violates this chapter's provisions or abuses cannabis within the meaning of ORS 474.005(1).

474.115 Unlicensed cultivation for sale, removal from the state, penalties. Cultivation for sale, removal from the state for sale, and sale of cannabis, without commission authority, shall be Class C felonies, and removal from the state of cannabis for other than sale shall be a Class A misdemeanor.

474.125 Sale or provision to minors, penalties, exception. The sale of cannabis to minors shall be a Class B felony, and gratuitous provision of cannabis to minors shall be a Class A misdemeanor, except when to a minor over 18 years of age under the same conditions provided by ORS 471.030(1) for alcohol.

474.135 Fine as additional penalty. In addition to other penalties and in lieu of any civil remedy, conviction of sale or unlicensed cultivation for sale under ORS 474.115 or 474.125 shall be punishable by a fine which the court shall determine will deprive an offender of any profits from the criminal activity.

474.145 Acquisition by minors, penalty. Except as provided by ORS 474.125, the purchase, attempt to purchase, possession, or acquisition of cannabis by a person under 21 years of age shall be a violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$250.

474.155 Public consumption prohibited, penalty, exception. Except where prominent signs permit and minors are neither admitted nor employed, public consumption of cannabis shall be a violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$250.

474.205 Commission to study methods of use, potential for abuse, establish cannabis levels for presumption of impairment. The commission, in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy and by grants to accredited research facilities, shall:

(a) Study methods of use and the potential for, and ill effects of, abuse of cannabis, the possible damage of throat and lungs from inhaling cannabis smoke, less harmful methods of administration, including but not limited to filtration of smoke and non-combustive vaporization of the psychoactive agents in cannabis, and shall report its findings in pamphlets distributed at OCC stores; and,

(b) Study cannabis impairment and, if practicable, shall establish by rule levels of cannabinoids and impairment above which a person shall be presumed impaired.

474.215 Presumption of negligence. In civil cases, a rebuttable presumption of negligence shall arise upon clear and convincing evidence that a person is found to be impaired by cannabis at the time of an accident and if the person's actions materially contributed to the cause of injury.

474.305 Disclosure of names and addresses prohibited. Information on applicants, licensees, and purchasers under this chapter shall not be disclosed except upon the person's request.

474.315 Attorney General's duties. The Attorney General shall vigorously defend this Act and any person prosecuted for acts licensed under this chapter, propose a federal and/or international act to remove impediments to this chapter, deliver the proposed federal and/or international act to each member of Congress and/or international organization, and urge adoption of the proposed federal and/or international act through all legal and appropriate means.

474.325 Effect. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2013. Any section of this Act being held invalid as to any person or circumstance shall not affect the application of any other section of this Act that can be given full or partial effect without the invalid section or application. If any law or entity of any type whatsoever is held to impede this chapter's full effect, unimpeded provisions shall remain in effect and the impeded provisions shall regain effect upon the impediments removal.

Oregon Cannabis Tax Act Headquarters
2712 NE Sandy Blvd
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Volunteer,

Thanks for your willingness to help get the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act on the ballot. We have until July 6, 2012 to submit 87,213 valid signatures from Oregon registered voters. We are hoping to get approximately 150,000 total signatures, to allow for duplicates or invalid signatures.

For your convenience, we have enclosed blank petitions sheets and a full copy of the text of the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act. It is vital that you carry the full text of the Act on you at all times while collecting signatures. If you think you will need more blank petitions than are enclosed – please let us know.

When gathering signatures:

- **Only Oregon registered voters may sign.** Each signer should print the date, and their name and address for verification purposes exactly how it appears on their voter registration. If a signer does not want to print out their full address, recommend that they at least print their name, city and zip code.
- **Never sign for anyone other than yourself;** husbands cannot sign for wives, etc. The only exception is a disabled person that requests your assistance – but the signer should still use their legal signature, however they legally sign – which can vary by their disability, and you can then assist in filling out the rest of the information, *at their request*.
- **Any changes**, such as marking out an error, **should be initialed by the signer.**
- **Only one circulator can gather signatures on any one sheet of a petition.** The circulator should sign the petition AFTER all signatures are obtained on that sheet. Once signed, no more signatures may be obtained on that sheet – a new sheet must be used.
- **Circulators should not make any false statements while circulating a petition.** It is okay to not know all the answers to questions, although the better prepared you are to answer questions, the more likely people will sign. But if you do not know the answer, feel free to direct the person to the website at www.cannabistaxact.org.
- **Circulators should not sell or offer to sell signature sheets, nor should they offer money or anything of value to sign or not sign the petition.**
- **When complete, mail to:**

**Oregon Cannabis Tax Act Headquarters
2712 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland, OR 97232**

Thank you for your support, and please contact us if you have any questions!

Oregon Cannabis Tax Act 2012
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Talking Points for the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act (OCTA)

1. *Isn't hemp already legal in Oregon?*

Yes; however, hemp cannot be legally grown until the DEA issues permits, which do not appear to be forthcoming. OCTA specifically states "No federal license shall be required to cultivate hemp in Oregon." Currently, there are no hemp farms in Oregon.

2. *Isn't marijuana already legal in Oregon?*

No; while Oregon does allow a small portion of the population to be exempt from criminal prosecution for the medical use of marijuana, the Supreme Court has stated that even medical users are engaging in "illegal drug use." They are simply exempt from criminal prosecution.

3. *If marijuana were legal, will people be allowed to come to work 'high?'*

No; alcohol is also legal and people are not allowed to come to work 'drunk.' What will change, however, is the perspective of marijuana use in society. The nature of drug screens will likely have to adapt, however, OCTA does not address that specifically. Nothing in the OCTA would allow a person to work while impaired.

4. *If marijuana were legal, won't this send the wrong message to kids?*

OCTA is about responsible ADULT use, which sends the RIGHT message to kids. Currently, marijuana is very easy for children to get due to the lack of controls in our system. If you ask a child which is easier to get – alcohol or marijuana – most will tell you that marijuana is far easier. This is because alcohol is regulated and sold in a controlled environment that prevents sales to minors and punishes those that provide alcohol to minors. OCTA is setup to handle marijuana in a very similar fashion, to ensure that kids do NOT have access to marijuana.

5. *If marijuana is legal, will people just be able to walk down the street smoking a joint?*

No; under OCTA, marijuana is handled very similar to alcohol. Just like it is currently not legal to walk around town drinking alcohol, it will not be legal to walk around smoking marijuana. There will be the possibility to have areas marked "no minors allowed" similar to 'beer gardens' and to consume marijuana at those locations - but people will not be able to just walk around town smoking marijuana in public.

6. *What about this "tax" – I don't like the idea of the government taxing marijuana...?*

The taxation is for commercial sales of psychoactive marijuana only and is meant to offset the costs of performing research and promoting the industrial hemp industry, as well as contributing 90% of the profits to the Oregon General Fund which goes to education, healthcare and public safety. There are a variety of different views to this concern – but if one did not want to pay a tax on marijuana – they could grow their own, and not pay any tax, license or fee at all; one could continue under the medical marijuana program as a patient and have a grower grow for them or they could purchase marijuana "at-cost" through pharmacies as an OMMP patient; and finally, marijuana is currently disproportionately priced due to its black market status – in a legal market, the price will still be far below what it currently costs; alcohol is taxed and is very reasonably priced.