

CORRECTIONS IMPACT STATEMENT

SESSION: 22RS BILL # SB 305 Introduced BR # 877 DOC ID #: xxxx

BILL SPONSOR(S): Sen. D. Yates, A. Southworth, G. Neal AMENDMENT SPONSOR(S): . .

TITLE: AN ACT relating to marijuana.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION: Amend KRS 218A.1421, 218A.1422, and 218A.1423 to remove penalties for possession, cultivation, or trafficking of up to eight ounces, or five plants, of marijuana; create a new section of KRS Chapter 431 to allow expungement of certain convictions relating to cannabis; amend KRS 218A.276 to conform.

AMENDMENT: .

This bill amendment committee substitute is expected to:

Have the following Corrections impact Have no Corrections impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creates new crime(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeals existing crime(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases penalty for existing crime(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decreases penalty for existing crime(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases incarceration | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreases incarceration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces inmate/offender services | <input type="checkbox"/> Increases inmate/offender services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases staff time or positions | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces staff time or positions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes elements of offense for existing crime(s) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otherwise impacts incarceration (Explain) . | |
-

STATE IMPACT: Class A, B, & C felonies are based on an average daily prison rate of \$97.60. Community Custody Class C and most Class D felons are housed in one of seventy-four (74) full service or regional jails for up to five (5) years. Department of Corrections' cost to incarcerate a felony inmate in a jail is \$35.43 per day, which includes \$31.34 per diem, medical costs, & central office administrative costs (substance abuse treatment not included).*

Projected Impact: NONE MINIMAL to MODERATE (< \$1 million) SIGNIFICANT (> \$1 million)

This legislation removes criminal penalties for personal amounts of marijuana related to possession, trafficking, or cultivation. At a felony level, the impact to the Department of Corrections from the legislation could be significant.

KRS 218A.1421 Trafficking in Marijuana is revised to indicate an amount more than eight (8) ounces.

- ◆ Under the legislation, Class A misdemeanor and Class D criminal penalties for trafficking in amounts less than eight (8) ounces are removed. Criminal penalties for amounts more than eight (8) ounces remain the same.
- ◆ Current penalties for Trafficking in Marijuana range from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B felony depending on the amount and number of offenses.

KRS 218A.1422 Possession of Marijuana is revised to unlawfully possessing amounts more than eight (8) ounces or five (5) plants.

- ◆ Possession of Marijuana is moved from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor and the maximum term of forty-five (45) days incarceration is deleted.

KRS 218A.1423 Marijuana Cultivation is revised to indicate an amount of more than five (5) marijuana plants.

- ◆ The criminal penalty of a Class A misdemeanor or Class D felony for amounts less than five (5) plants are removed.
- ◆ Current Class D or Class C felony penalties for Marijuana Cultivation for more than five (5) plants remain.

Possession of marijuana in unlawful amounts is added to KRS 218A.276.

The legislation also establishes a retroactive expungement process for identified criminal marijuana related convictions for which the offense involved did not record a quantity of marijuana in excess of a personal quantity. Eligible convictions include Possession of Marijuana, Trafficking less than eight (8) ounces, Cultivation, and Drug Paraphernalia not punishable by more than five (5) years of incarceration.

- ◆ Currently the Department of Corrections has 510 inmates incarcerated on marijuana related offenses:

- 361 Trafficking in Marijuana,
- 53 Cultivating Marijuana, and
- 96 Possession convictions.

(Note: offenders may be incarcerated for other offenses or have multiple offenses.)

- ◆ There are 5,003 community offenders on supervision for marijuana related offenses:
 - 1,931 Trafficking in Marijuana,
 - 366 Cultivating Marijuana, and
 - 2,706 Possession of Marijuana convictions.

- ◆ AOC records for FY 2021 reflect 289 Class D, sixty-one (61) Class C, and three (3) Class B felony convictions for marijuana related offenses. (Includes inchoate offenses.)

The legislation would reduce the number of offenders receiving convictions for possession, trafficking, and cultivation, though there would be individuals who continue to commit the offenses of possessing, trafficking, and cultivating beyond the quantities specified under the legislation.

The statutory changes as introduced will have an impact on supervision of offenders, substance abuse treatment, and drug testing/monitoring. There would be a volume of work related to expungement, for both current and older records which may be eligible for expungement.

Cost to Incarcerate

A Class D Felony sentence is 1 to 5 years.	10 Class D Felons cost KY \$129,318.61 to \$646,593.03
1 Class D Felon costs KY \$12,931.86 to \$64,659.30	100 Class D Felons cost KY \$1,293,186.06 to \$6,465,930.31

LOCAL IMPACT: Local governments are responsible for the cost of incarcerating individuals charged with Class A or B misdemeanors and felony defendants until disposition of the case. The estimated impact will be based on the \$35.43 cost to incarcerate for the Department of Corrections, including \$31.34 per diem and medical that DOC pays jails to house felony offenders. This cost to incarcerate may not be the actual housing cost for the jail.*

Projected Impact: NONE MINIMAL to MODERATE (< \$1 million) SIGNIFICANT (> \$1 million)

The legislation would reduce cannabis related convictions, providing a significant impact to the court system.

Under the legislation, cannabis could be possessed lawfully in small amounts, reducing the number of criminal convictions for Possession of Marijuana.

Possession of marijuana is a Class B misdemeanor, subject to county jurisdiction and costs.

- ◆ AOC records for FY2021 show a total of 9,141 misdemeanor marijuana related convictions.
 - Of those, 8,249 convictions were specific to Possession of Marijuana.

- ◆ Currently, there are 2,706 offenders on community supervision with a conviction for Possession of Marijuana.
 - Additionally, there are a total of 613 supervised offenders with misdemeanor Trafficking or Cultivating Marijuana convictions.
 - For example, of the Department of Corrections' current 366 offenders on supervision for KRS 218A.1423 Cultivating in Marijuana, 320 are for amounts greater than five (5) plants.

Under the legislation, an amount of possession of marijuana that currently would result in a district court action would not be criminal, providing fewer offenses related to marijuana and possibly fewer incarcerated individuals, impacting both the county and state incarcerated population.

It is not known how many days of incarceration are incurred for misdemeanor marijuana related offenses, as these may be citable offenses or often accompany other charges for which an individual has been arrested or incarcerated.

Cost to Incarcerate

A Class A misdemeanor is 90 days to 1 year in jail.
1 Class A misdemeanor: \$3,188.68 to \$12,931.86

10 Class A misdemeanants: \$31,886.78 to \$129,318.61
100 Class A misdemeanants: \$318,867.80 to \$1,293,186.06

A Class B misdemeanor is up to 90 days in jail.
1 Class B misdemeanor: up to \$3,188.68

10 Class B misdemeanants: up to \$31,886.78
100 Class B misdemeanants: up to \$318,867.80

PROJECTED IMPACT FROM AMENDMENTS:

NONE MINIMAL to MODERATE (< \$1 million) SIGNIFICANT (> \$1 million)

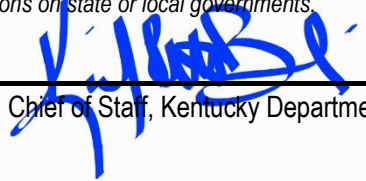
**All projections are based on the daily rate x 365 days x number of years. The cost to incarcerate as calculated by the Department is shown here as rounded to the hundredths. Offenders may have multiple offenses or be incarcerated on other charges unless otherwise noted. Unless otherwise noted, numbers will include inchoate offenses at the underlying offense level.*

The following offices contributed to this Corrections Impact Statement:

Dept. of Corrections Dept. of Kentucky State Police Administrative Office of the Courts Parole Board Other

NOTE: Consideration should be given to the cumulative impact of all bills that increase the felon population, lengthens the term or incarceration, or impose new obligations on state or local governments.

APPROVED BY:



Chief of Staff, Kentucky Department of Corrections

3/18/2022

Date