



INITIATIVES AIMING AT THE LEGALIZATION OF “MEDICAL MARIJUANA” IN WISCONSIN

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**ASAM Disclosure of
Relevant Financial Relationships
Content of Activity:**

Review of the Scientific Evidence Regarding the Potential Benefits and Harms of Marijuana

Name	Commercial Interests	Relevant Financial Relationships: What Was Received	Relevant Financial Relationships: For What Role	No Relevant Financial Relationships with Any Commercial Interests
David Galbis-Reig	Pfizer, Inc.	Bond in IRA Rollover Account	Ownership Interest	
David Galbis-Reig	Cortex Pharmaceuticals	Stock in IRA Rollover Account	Ownership Interest	
David Galbis-Reig	GW Pharmaceuticals	Stock in IRA Rollover Account	Ownership Interest	
Spouse	Abbott Pharmaceuticals	Stock Options	Ownership Interest	
Spouse	AbbVie	Stock Options	Ownership Interest	
Spouse	Hospira	Stock Options	Ownership Interest	





OBJECTIVES

- › Understand the difference between legalization and decriminalization.
- › Understand the current state of marijuana legislation and legalization in Wisconsin.
- › Gain awareness of recent referendum votes by some of the Native American Tribes in Wisconsin regarding support for medicinal and/or recreational marijuana use.



DECRIMINALIZATION VERSUS LEGALIZATION

- › **Decriminalization:** The abolition of criminal penalties in relation to certain acts, perhaps retroactively, though perhaps regulated permits or fines might still apply.
- › **Legalization:** The process of removing a legal prohibition against something which is currently NOT legal.
- › With respect to marijuana, many people *inappropriately* use the two term interchangeably.



CURRENT LEGAL STATUS OF MARIJUANA

- › Marijuana remains illegal AND criminalized in Wisconsin except as noted below.
- › Current Legal Status of Marijuana and Cannabinoids in Wisconsin
 - 2013 Wisconsin Act 267 permits physicians to utilize “cannabidiol in a form without psychoactive effects” only for the treatment of seizure disorders.
 - Requires a physician and pharmacy approved by the controlled substance board to prescribe and dispense.



2015 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

› Decriminalization Bill(s)

– Assembly Bill 246

› Introduced by several representatives.

› Bill eliminates:

- Penalty for possession of MJ if the amount is no more than 25 grams
- Penalty for manufacturing or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or deliver if the amount of MJ involved is less than 25 grams OR the number of plants involved is no more than two plants.
- Penalty for distributing or delivering MJ if the amount involved is less than 25 grams or the number of plants involved is no more than two plants.
- Limits local governments to enacting ordinances prohibiting only the possession of more than 25 grams of MJ.

– Senate Bill 167 (Senate Counterpart to Assembly Bill 246)



2015 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

› Legalization Bill

- 2015 Assembly Bill 224
- Introduced by State Rep. Melissa Sargent.
- Seeks to regulate the production and sale of marijuana to adults over the age of 21.
 - › Legalizes possession of ½ ounce (14.2 gm) of MJ for Wisconsin Residents and ¼ ounce (7.1 gm) of MJ for non-residents for recreational use.
 - › Possession of more than the maximum amount but less than 28 grams (≈1 ounce) subject to fine up to \$1000 and/or 90 days in jail.
 - › Possession of greater than 28 grams is guilty of Class B Misdemeanor.
 - › Specifically prohibits “edibles.”
- Currently remains in Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.



NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL REFERENDUM(S)

- › Menominee Tribal Leaders held referendum vote to determine whether the tribe should grow and sell marijuana.
 - Referendum vote approved medicinal and recreational marijuana use on tribal land.
 - Tribal leaders plan to write ordinances regulating growth and sale of Marijuana.
- › Sokoagon and Red Cliff tribal members have approved similar referendums.
- › St. Croix tribe also exploring marijuana legalization on tribal land.

QUESTIONS?

