



## Article 30

### **Bylaw Amendment –To Prohibit All Types of Non-medical Marijuana Establishments as defined in M.G.L. Ch.94G Sec.1**

Mr. Considine moves that the Town take affirmative action on Article 30 as printed in the Warrant .



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## Bylaw Amendment –To Prohibit All Types of Non-medical Marijuana Establishments

November 2016-- Massachusetts voters approved Question 4 legalizing the adult use of marijuana and marijuana establishments.

Recreational (i.e. non-medical) marijuana establishments are automatically allowed under the law, unless a town votes to “Opt Out” and prohibit some or all types of establishments



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What would be Prohibited Under Article 30?

- Retail sale of marijuana products
- Cultivation of marijuana for commercial sale
- Manufacturing of any marijuana product
- Independent testing labs
- Any other types of licensed marijuana-related businesses



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### Why did BOH decide to sponsor Article 30?

- BOH spent past 6 months looking into effects of marijuana legalization
  - Medical literature; Public health outcomes in states that have already legalized marijuana,
- BOH believes legalization presents significant public health concerns
  - Impacts on mental, emotional and physical health, especially youth



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### Retail sale of marijuana could include

- “Pot Shops” that sell marijuana products—  
marijuana, edibles, vaping liquids, paraphernalia
- “Vape Shops” or convenience stores that sell  
marijuana vaping products;
- Retail stores that sell marijuana edibles, marijuana-  
based supplements, or marijuana-infused body  
lotions, etc., amongst other products.



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### Future businesses could be permitted:

- **On-site Consumption** such as marijuana cafes and bars;
- **Mixed Use Social Consumption** Establishments where consumption of marijuana is a “secondary” or “shared” purpose to a non-cannabis purpose. For example, a coffeehouse, bar or restaurant might serve edible marijuana products; a yoga or massage studio might offer cannabis-infused body oils etc. Persons under 21 allowed.
- Stated intent of CCC to permit these types of businesses, perhaps as soon as 2019.



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Public Policy is often ahead of the science on Marijuana, but here's what we know:

- Since 2015, 8 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational Marijuana.
- Colorado was first state to legalize marijuana -sales began in 2015
- Therefore, data is limited on effects of legalization and the research is still evolving.

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Colorado has seen

- Increase in number of marijuana-related hospitalizations
  - Increase in marijuana-related visits to emergency departments
  - Increase in calls to poison control centers
  - Increase in unintentional pediatric overdoses
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- Source: CO Dept. Public Health



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Colorado and Washington have seen an increase in motor vehicle accidents after legalization of recreational marijuana

Sources: National Acad. Sciences, CO Dept. Health, Massachusetts Medical Society



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### Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

- The public perception that cannabis use carries no risk is inaccurate.
- Research suggests that it prompts development of or lowers the threshold for anxiety, depression and suicidality
- 10% of adults who use cannabis regularly will develop a substance use disorder BUT
- Almost 20% of adolescents who use before the age of 17 develop dependency



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### Risk to adolescents and young adults

- Regular use of cannabis by youth affects cognition and brain maturation.
  - Impairs thinking, learning, and memory
- The adolescent brain does not finish maturing until age 25.



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- Retail sale of marijuana “normalizes” use of the drug, grouping marijuana with other legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco.
- The negative health effects of alcohol and tobacco are well known.
- Why normalize use of another drug?



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