

SENATE No. 1072

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to marijuana research, data collection, and best practices.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1072

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1072) of Jason M. Lewis, Joseph D. McKenna, Richard J. Ross, Steven Ultrino and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to marijuana research, data collection, and best practices. Marijuana Policy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**
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An Act relative to marijuana research, data collection, and best practices.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 14 the following new section:-

3 Section 15. (a) The commission shall develop an annual research agenda in order to
4 understand the social and economic effects of marijuana in the commonwealth and to obtain
5 scientific information relative to the biology, neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology
6 and etiology of marijuana use and marijuana abuse. The secretary of health and human services,
7 with the advice and consent of the commission, may expend funds from the Marijuana
8 Regulation Fund established in section 14 of this chapter to implement the objectives of the
9 research agenda which shall include, but not be limited to:

10 (1) comprehensive legal and factual studies of the social and economic impacts of
11 marijuana in the commonwealth on: (a) state and local governments; and (b) communities and
12 social institutions generally, including individuals, families and businesses within such

13 communities and institutions; provided, however, that the matters to be examined in such studies
14 shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (i) a review of existing federal, state and local policies and practices with respect to the
16 legalization or prohibition of marijuana, including a review of the costs of such policies and
17 practices;

18 (ii) an assessment of the relationship between marijuana and the criminal justice system
19 to include an assessment of racial or demographic disparities;

20 (iii) an assessment of any marijuana abuse, including its impact on individuals, families,
21 businesses, social institutions and the economy;

22 (iv) an assessment of the health benefits of medical marijuana use;

23 (v) an assessment of the impact of marijuana use on individuals, families, businesses,
24 social institutions and the economy generally, including the role of advertising in promoting
25 marijuana and the impact of marijuana on depressed economic areas;

26 (vi) an assessment of the extent to which similar state marijuana legalization laws have
27 provided revenues to other state and local governments;

28 (vii) an assessment of the costs of added infrastructure, police force, health care
29 utilization and dependency on public assistance; and

30 (viii) an assessment of the impact of the development and operation of the marijuana
31 establishments on small businesses in host municipalities and surrounding municipalities,
32 including a review of any economic harm experienced and potential solutions to mitigate
33 associated economic harm.

34 (2) individual studies conducted by academic institutions and individual researchers in
35 the commonwealth to study topics which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the short and
36 long term effects of marijuana on the human brain; (ii) the sociology and psychology of
37 marijuana use and marketing; and (iii) the epidemiology and etiology of marijuana use and
38 marijuana abuse in the general population; provided, however, that when contracting with
39 researchers to study such issues, the commission shall encourage the collaboration among
40 researchers in the commonwealth and other states and jurisdictions. Any research paid for with
41 public funds shall be made available for the public.

42 The commission shall annually make scientifically-based recommendations which reflect
43 the results of this research to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint
44 committee on mental health and substance abuse, the joint committee on public health and the
45 joint committee on marijuana. The commission shall consider any such recommendations,
46 research and findings in all decisions related to enhancing responsible marijuana use and
47 mitigating marijuana abuse.

48 (b) The commission and the secretary of health and human services shall incorporate the
49 findings from the baseline study of marijuana use in the commonwealth in chapter 351 of the
50 acts of 2016.