

Is your state considering any pieces of drug policy legislation this session?

TIP: Try searching your state legislature website as well as allied organizations' websites such as Marijuana Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance. Another resource is legiscan.com.

If no - when is the deadline for introducing new bills?

- Is there a legislator that is supportive of drug policy issues?
- What issue would make most sense for your state? (ex: Good Samaritan policy, medical marijuana, decriminalization?)



NEXT ACTIONS: Research legislators that may be supportive. Schedule a meeting with a state legislator to encourage them to introduce legislation relating to the drug policy topic you selected.

If yes - what are they?

TIP: Go to your state government website (ex: mgaleg.maryland.gov) and search for "marijuana" or "overdose" or "drug testing")

Ex:

Number: MD SB 394

Sponsor: Zirkin

Title: Possession of Marijuana - Maximum Penalties

Abstract: Making the possession of marijuana a civil offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100; etc.

Status: Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m. - Judicial Proceedings committee



NEXT ACTIONS: Inquire about submitting oral/written testimony. Find others to testify. Prepare testimony. Determine members of Judicial Proceedings committee. Work with SSDP staff to create targeted online action center.

<p>Number: Sponsor: Title: Abstract: Status:</p> <p>NEXT ACTIONS:</p>
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Researching the process.

- Browse around your state legislature's website to find resources explaining the legislative process.
- If you're still unsure, call the office of legislative services (or similar entity).

Researching the issue.

- Read the text of the bill.
- Look up similar laws in other states.
- Take a look at talking points from SSDP and other allied organizations' websites, and make them your own.
- Read any news articles about the issue or policy.

Researching the decision makers.

- Look up who is on the committee(s) that will be dealing with your bill.
- How have they voted on other drug policy issues in the past?
- Have they made any public statements about drugs or drug policy?
- What do they list on their campaign websites or biographies as values/issues that are most important to them?
- Research where your representative(s) stand. Can you ask them to co-sponsor? Vote yes? Or even simply refrain from being vocally opposed?

Preparing your testimony

- Make sure you adhere to rules/regulations for testimony. Is there a format the committee prefers? What is the page limit? What is the time limit?
- Keep your outreach director in the loop. We're more than happy to help you put your testimony together, suggest edits, etc.

NEXT STEPS

Use this space to note who needs to do what next and by when, including any important dates/deadlines (ex: end of session, upcoming committee hearing, etc.)