

**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](http://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](http://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.

**Number:**  
**Sponsor:**  
**Title:**  
**Abstract:**  
**Status:**

NEXT ACTIONS:

**Number:**  
**Sponsor:**  
**Title:**  
**Abstract:**  
**Status:**

NEXT ACTIONS:

**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.)