

SB 263

Senator Dan Kerschen

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

Nick Reinecker Opponent Testimony

January 16, 2017

Senators,

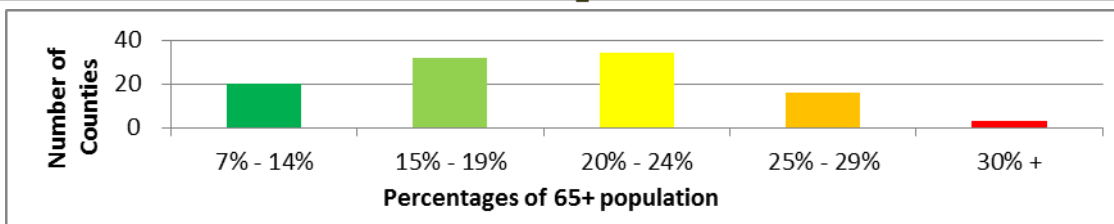
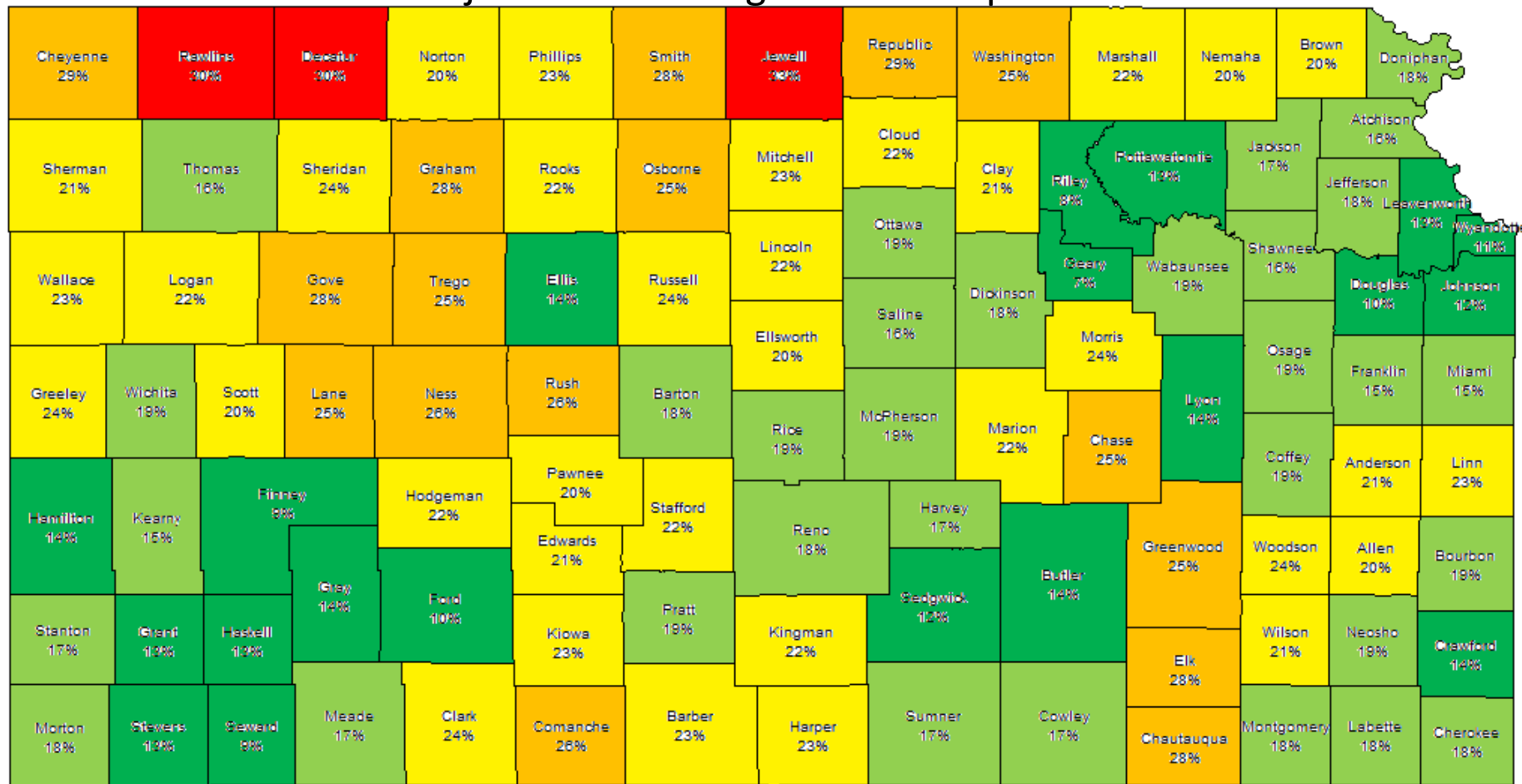
This bill represents the antithesis of conservative principles of limited government, fair trade, individual liberty and personal responsibility. It does not reflect who we are as a people in Kansas and America. We have seen first-hand the consequences of selective discretion and 80 years of programming that surrounds this plant and the time has come to “nip it in the bud”. Cannabis prohibition is an unjust law and therefore no law at all. De-schedule cannabis.

Thank You

Nick Reinecker

# Kansas 2015

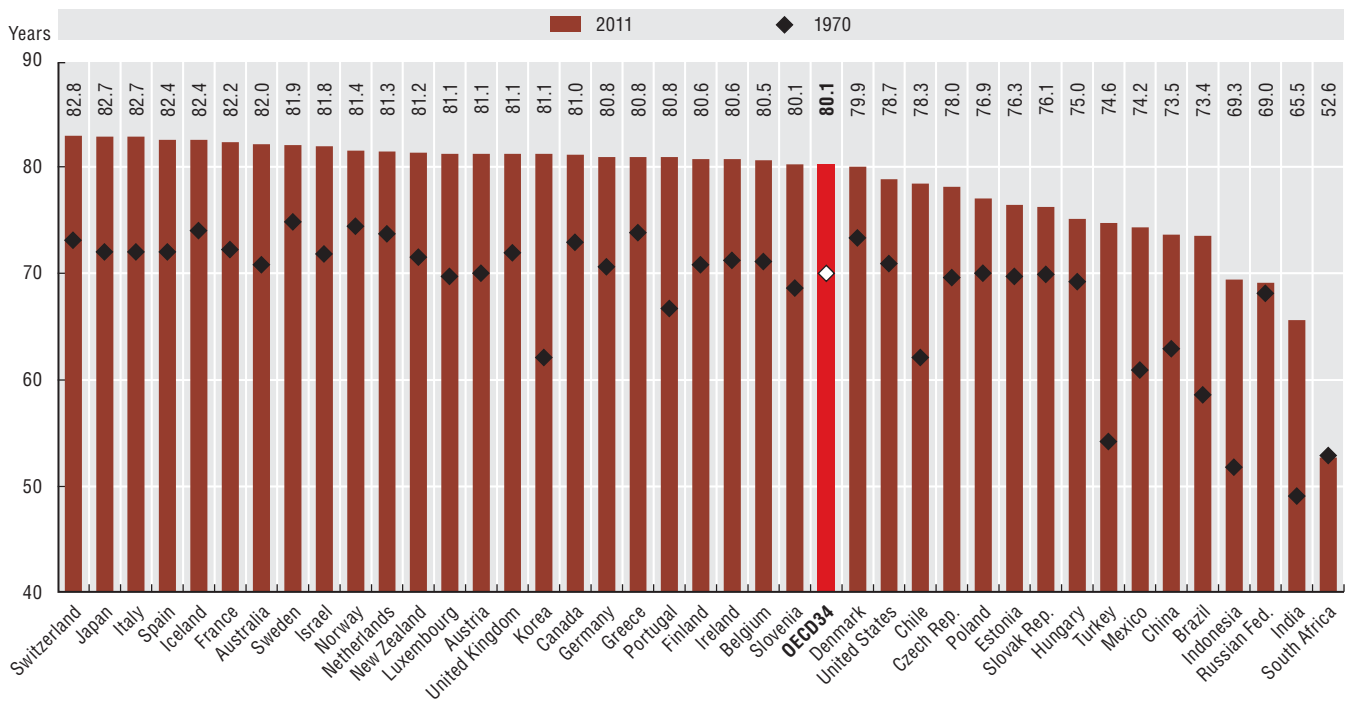
## Projected Percentages of 65+ Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1; Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, [http://www.cedbr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=563&Itemid=220](http://www.cedbr.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=563&Itemid=220) (accessed June 20, 2012).



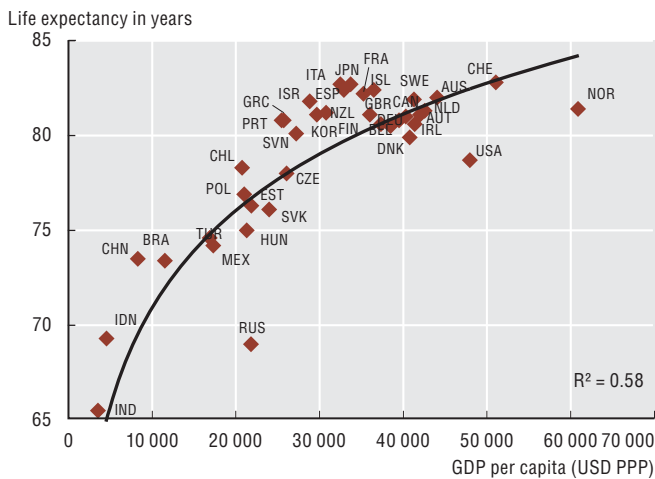
### 1.1.1. Life expectancy at birth, 1970 and 2011 (or nearest year)



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>; World Bank for non-OECD countries.

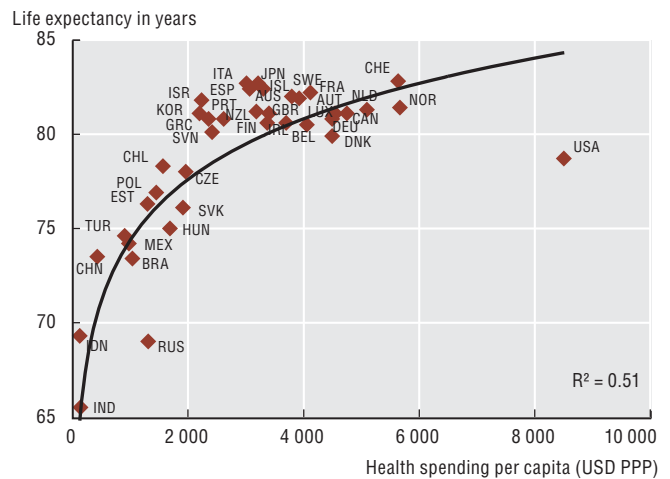
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932916002>

### 1.1.2. Life expectancy at birth and GDP per capita, 2011 (or nearest year)



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>.  
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932916021>

### 1.1.3. Life expectancy at birth and health spending per capita, 2011 (or nearest year)



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>; World Bank for non-OECD countries.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932916040>

JANUARY 10, 2018 / 1:22 PM / 6 DAYS AGO

# Vermont senate passes bill to legalize marijuana use

Scott Malone

(Reuters) - Vermont's senate on Wednesday passed a bill to legalize recreational marijuana use, which would make the state the first in the nation to do so through the legislative process rather than a ballot initiative.

Republican Governor Phil Scott is expected to sign the bill, which passed the Democratic-controlled Senate by a voice vote. The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives passed the measure last week. Although Vermont is one of the most politically liberal states, it is also one of 23 in the nation that do not allow ballot initiatives.

The Vermont bill would allow those 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana, two adult plants and four immature plants beginning on July 1. It does not immediately clear the way for retail sales of the drug, leaving that up to a commission created last year to study how to tax and regulate it.

Passage would put the state directly at odds with the Trump administration. Last week, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed an Obama-era policy easing enforcement of federal laws banning the drug in eight states where it is legal.

"Vermont in particular doesn't care very much what the attorney general thinks," said Matt Simon, New England political director for the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project. "With the way this bill is written, having a few plants, there's nothing that the feds could do even if they wanted to."

Law enforcement groups in Vermont have criticized the legalization drive, saying the drug poses health risks and that there is no way to quickly test drivers who might be intoxicated by marijuana.

Neighboring Massachusetts, nearby Maine and six other states have legalized marijuana use as a result of voter initiatives.

New Hampshire's House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a similar bill to legalize recreational marijuana use. That state's governor, Republican Chris Sununu, has said he opposes legalization.

Marijuana advocates say that legalizing sales of the drug will help to phase out the existing illegal market and allow states to take in additional tax revenue.

Five of the first states to legalize the drug - Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada - together generated more than \$485 million in tax revenue off marijuana sales in the first nine months of 2017, according to an analysis by the Marijuana Policy Project.

Reporting by Scott Malone in Boston; Editing by Andrew Hay

# Weed all about it: The origins of the word ‘marijuana’

*How did the drug, once commonly known in the US by its scientific name, cannabis, come to be called marijuana?*

December 14, 2013 2:59PM ET

by [Alfonso Serrano](#) @serfer6

Craig F. Walker / The Denver Post via Getty Images

The term “marijuana” enjoys a secure place in the American lexicon. The recent drive to legalize the drug for medicinal purposes has certainly helped loft the word into the mainstream. Marijuana-legalization movements for recreational use in Colorado and Washington state have played a role, too, as has the nascent legalization and decriminalization campaign sweeping through Latin America, [most notably in Uruguay](#).

But throughout the 19th century, Americans used the word “cannabis” when referring to the plant. Pharmaceutical companies like Bristol-Myers Squib and Eli Lilly used cannabis in medicines — widely sold in U.S. pharmacies — to treat insomnia, migraines and rheumatism. From 1840 to 1900, U.S. scientific journals published hundreds of articles touting the therapeutic benefits of cannabis.

So why does the term “marijuana” dominate the discourse in the United States, while most people in Europe and large swaths of Latin America refer to the drug as cannabis, the botanical name for the plant?

The answer, in part, is found in the Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910. After the upheaval of the war, scores of Mexican peasants migrated to U.S. border states, taking with them their popular form of intoxication, what they termed “mariguana.”

Upon arrival, they encountered anti-immigrant fears throughout the Southwest — prejudices that intensified after the Great Depression. Analysts say this bigotry played a key role in instituting the first marijuana laws — aimed at placing social controls on the immigrant population.

In an effort to marginalize the new migrant population, the first anti-cannabis laws were targeted at the term “marijuana,” says Amanda Reiman, a policy manager at the Drug Policy Alliance. Scholars say it’s no coincidence that the first U.S. cities to outlaw pot were in border states. It is widely believed that El Paso, Texas, was the first U.S. city to ban cannabis, when it approved a measure in 1914 prohibiting the sale or possession of the drug.

Around the same time, West Indian and Mexican migrants started taking marijuana with them to ports along the Gulf of Mexico — most notably New Orleans, where the media began associating cannabis use with jazz musicians, blacks and prostitutes. Media

outlets across the country helped fuel the hysteria, churning out headlines like “Loco weed now cultivated and smoked in cigarettes” and “Murder weed found up and down coast.” By the early 1930s, 29 states had banned marijuana.

But nobody played a larger role in cementing the word in the national consciousness than Harry Anslinger, director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics from 1930 to 1962. An outspoken critic of the drug, he set out in the 1930s to place a federal ban on cannabis, embarking on a series of public appearances across the country.

Anslinger is often referred to as the great racist of the war on drugs, says John Collins, coordinator of the LSE IDEAS International Drug Policy Project in London.

Collins is not certain if Anslinger truly was a bigot. “But he knew that he had to play up people’s fears in order to get federal legislation passed,” Collins said. “So when talking to senators with large immigrant populations, it very much helped to portray drugs as something external, something that is invading the U.S. He would use the term ‘marijuana’ knowing that it sounds Hispanic, it sounds foreign.”

Anslinger reportedly kept files on jazz musicians titled “Marijuana and Musicians,” and monitored band mates who played alongside Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington, among others. And he began his federal campaign against the drug by publishing a report titled “Marijuana: Assassin of Youth” in 1937.

That year, Anslinger testified before Congress in favor of marijuana prohibition.

“Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind,” he said during testimony. “Most marijuana smokers are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage.”

Anslinger’s crusade succeeded. In 1937 Congress approved the Marijuana Tax Act, which criminalized pot possession throughout the United States.

U.S. perceptions of marijuana is coming full circle, especially as states increasingly recognize the plant’s medicinal benefits. The U.S. public has played a role too, as polls show that a majority of [Americans favor marijuana legalization](#).

And Americans have helped in that transformation — to make cannabis their own. “Marijuana,” after all, does sound foreign and strange, with its multiple syllables. Instead, many prefer the more colloquial, monosyllabic words “pot,” “weed,” “grass,” “herb,” “smoke” and “dope.”

The rest of the world has followed suit, in apparent defiance of the U.S.-imposed word “marijuana.” Mexicans, for example, have adopted the terms “mota,” “pasto” and “gallo.” In the rest of Latin America, names range from “chala” in Argentina to “tobareto” and “grifa” in Ecuador and “hierba” in Venezuela. In Spain, “Maria” is a popular term, while the French, in an apparent nod to the U.S., often use “Marie Jeanne.”

## Civil disobedience and the Rule of Law

Why breaking the law should not be the first resort.

Submit

By David Allen Green

When should we not comply with the law? For some, the answer to this question is easy. The law should be disregarded when the law is unjust. There is, the argument goes, no reason to adhere to any law when that law is wrong. This is even the case in a modern democratic society where those making and enforcing the law supposedly have some sort of mandate of legitimacy. It would appear that any such law is made to be broken.

Against this view is the absolutist notion that the law is always to be obeyed without any question. In no circumstances can one take the law into their own hands. The only imperative is to act in accordance with lawful authority, regardless of the particular law and concerns about its source: there is nothing to be done but to do what you are told.

These extremes of order and disorder are invariably attractive to the unthinking. Both the shallow radical and the thuggish totalitarian do not need to think hard about any given situation; indeed, they do not need to think at all. But both ignore the "Rule of Law" and its crucial and precarious role in a liberal state.

The great left-wing historian E. P. Thompson pointed out that far from being necessarily an instrument of oppression, the Rule of Law can provide a great benefit for the weak and unfranchised. If all actions require a lawful basis, then those who otherwise would readily abuse power were also restrained by the law. It is not open for those with power to simply act as they will. Of course certain laws were unjust and unacceptable; but the general application of the principle that one should obey the law may protect the vulnerable from the knave and the fool.

In modern capitalism, the people most likely to casually disobey the law are actually not the "great unwashed" of student protesters and leftist activists. This is for the simple reason that a requisite of abusing power is to have power in the first place.



Instead, casual law-breakers are -- as the hacking, banking, and expenses scandals show -- often the very politicians, financiers, tabloid journalists, and police officers who routinely hold their fellow citizens to standards which they are not willing to meet themselves. They may talk of absolute adherence to the law, but they walk just like any superficial revolutionary. The powerful can be civilly disobedient, too.

The key problem with the Rule of Law in this country is not that, from time to time, protesters may stay in certain private and public spaces too long. It is rather that many with power feel -- or know -- they can get away with far worse abuses, from non-complying with financial regulations to bribing public officials. Indeed, the police officer happily using excessive force is as much a law-breaker as the aggravating trespasser, and his or her culpability is actually much worse because of the coercive force they are abusing.

George Orwell once described this country as a family with the wrong members in control. It now often feels that like a jurisdiction with well-placed law-breakers beyond any real control. Hapless individuals can end up with criminal records for minor misdemeanours, with their lives ruined, whilst those whose abuses have affected the lives of many others keep their pensions and usually their jobs. A citizen can lose their job or their liberty because of a moment's stupidity of a police officer, whilst a deliberately unlawful act by that same officer may get a written warning at worst.

The Rule of Law is therefore important because it can be the only thing which can check or deter the powerful from wrong-doing. It is a doctrine for the protection of all of us.

This, however, does not mean that there should never be civil disobedience. It instead requires us to consider the wider implications of what would otherwise be a deliberate unlawful act. Is the proposed course of action a mere gesture, some pose as a latter-day outlaw? Is a person breaking the law just to show that they can? Or is it really the case that the principle of justice cannot be asserted in any other way than to undermine the standard requirement of legality?

Each of us takes the daily benefit of the lawful behaviour of others. We are all better off because other people comply with the law. To disobey a law should thereby not be a selfish ploy or an act of vanity. There should be a greater and well-defined public good as the prize of breaking the law, and any breach should be no more than necessary than to obtain that prize. There are many ways to discredit and change a law other than to break it. On occasion it may perhaps be entirely just to disobey the law; but over time, the Rule of Law is fundamental to a just society.

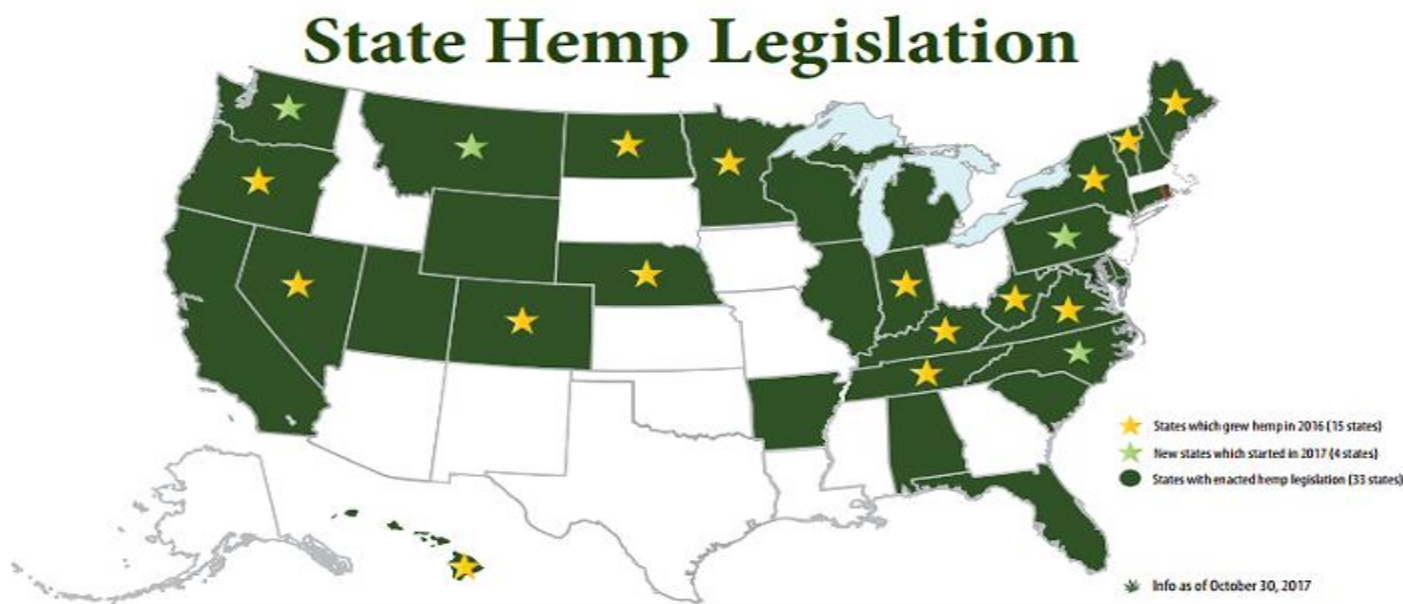
*David Allen Green is legal correspondent of the New Statesman*

# Colorado Leads Country in Hemp Production, a Growing Field

Thomas Mitchell | November 1, 2017 | 8:36am

Dispensaries might get all the attention, but hemp farmers are getting the acreage – 23,343 acres, to be exact, according to a new study by **Vote Hemp**, an organization dedicated to advancing the industrial hemp industry. And which state is leading the pack? Colorado, by far.

Vote Hemp just **released the results of its study** measuring the number of acres on which hemp is grown across the country. The report found that 33 states have enacted some form of hemp-specific legislation; nineteen of those have created licenses to grow hemp for industrial or research purposes. Among those growing, Colorado accounts for nearly a third of the legal hemp acreage in the country in 2017, at 7,500 acres. Oregon(3,469), North Dakota (3,020), Kentucky (3,000) and New York (2,000) rounded out the top five.



Vote Hemp

“We’ve seen hemp cultivation significantly expand in the U.S. in 2017, with over double the number of acres planted in hemp compared to last year and the addition of four more states with hemp pilot programs,” Vote Hemp president Eric Steenstra says. “The majority of states have implemented hemp farming laws, in clear support of this crop and its role in diversifying and making more sustainable our agricultural economy.”

Hemp's legality had been somewhat murky, thanks to the federal government's prohibition of cannabis. Since the passage of the **Fertilizer Access and Responsible Management (FARM) Act** in 2016, however, the commercial hemp business has boomed. The act includes a section called "**Legitimacy of industrial hemp research**," which legalized hemp growing for research purposes under agricultural pilot programs and academic research; it also allows states with legalized hemp-growing programs to operate without federal interference.

Since the bill's passage, the study notes, legal hemp farms have exploded in the states that allow them. In 2016, Vote Hemp reports, the number of acres dedicated to growing legal hemp was 9,770 – less than 42 percent of the 23,343 acres in 2017. In 2016, Colorado had fewer than 1,500 acres in hemp cultivation.

Like the retail marijuana industry, the hemp field has moved faster in Colorado than in other states because voters approved legalization in 2012, according to industrial hemp farmer Gabe Rimey. Unwilling to deal with the stiff regulations around retail marijuana, Rimey founded **Homestead Organics** in 2016 to get in on the hemp trade, building a greenhouse in Douglas County where he grows CBD-rich strains of hemp.

"It really is so much easier from a licensing perspective when you talk about hemp laws compared with recreational or medical [marijuana]," he says. "In Colorado, we got a head start when we legalized, and people broke ground on hemp almost immediately. There was no oversight then, sort of like back in 2008, when medical dispensaries just started out."



Gabe Rimey tends to his CBD-rich varieties of hemp inside his greenhouse cultivation in Franktown. Courtesy of Homestead Organics

According to the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#), there were nearly 500 registered hemp farmers in Colorado as of October 30, 2017. Rimey credits the CDA's embrace of industrial hemp as a strong reason why, pointing to a relatively cheap \$500 application fee and \$5-per-acre charge that farmers pay to grow hemp. "Once you apply and get a license number, you're kind of off to the races," he explains.

That doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. Rimey believes that Oregon, which increased its hemp fields from 500 acres in 2016 to 3,469 this year, is in a better position to become the country's leading producer. "They're coming up in a big way. They have a more favorable system out there," he says, explaining that the CDA only tests hemp plants for THC potency and not the final product, such as CBD oils and isolates – unlike Oregon, which tests the final product. Because cannabinoid extraction can further remove THC from CBD concentrates, hemp-industry advocates are calling on states with legalized hemp to apply the 0.3 percent THC limit to the final product, and not the plants themselves.

"With any legislation, you run the risk of unintended consequences. When we started growing hemp in Colorado, everyone was thinking about the traditional lines of growing for seed, food, fiber and shelter," Rimey says. "But that's just not the case anymore."

Hemp farmers have largely shifted their focus from hemp seeds and fibers to CBD oil. Some industry experts estimate that as many as 95 percent of the hemp farmers in Colorado are growing solely for CBD extraction – and with good reason.

According to *Hemp Business Journal's* 2017 mid-year report, **CBD product sales more than tripled from 2014 to 2017**, going from \$108.1 million to \$358.4 million. By 2022, the report estimates, the CBD industry will take in \$1.812 billion in sales.

"The fact that you can have a 15 to 20 percent CBD percent strain now – that wasn't happening even four or five years ago," Rimey says. "With today's genetics, you couldn't see the difference between a commercial marijuana strain's flower and a high-CBD hemp strain's."