

A proposed constitutional amendment legalizing recreational marijuana in Arkansas was filed late last week. The Arkansas Adult Use and Expungement Marijuana Amendment would allow for one marijuana dispensary license for every 15-thousand residents in the state and allow anyone with felony or misdemeanor convictions related to the possession of the drug to petition the courts for relief. This is one of three cannabis-related amendments that could potentially be on the November 2022 ballot. Melissa Fults, executive director Arkansas for Marijuana Reform, wrote the amendment that she says appeals to voters on both sides of the aisle.

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“...a money grab.”

Excess revenue from the amendment would fund after-school as well as pre-kindergarten programs, along with University of Arkansas Medical Sciences National Cancer Institute and medical marijuana research. Fults said she had not planned to file her own amendment, intending to support another one, but her requirements of including a legal home grow component and expungement for marijuana related crimes fell on deaf ears. She said she hopes this amendment will help the medical marijuana industry by removing taxes and allowing for more competitive prices and better products.

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“...there’s no competition.”

Fults said this amendment, if passed, would create “thousands” of good paying jobs. Voters first approved Arkansas’ medical marijuana program in 2016.

Another proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize recreational use of marijuana has been filed with the secretary of state. The Arkansas Adult Use and Expungement Marijuana Amendment would allow for one marijuana dispensary license for every 15-thousand residents in the state and allow those with convictions related to the possession of marijuana to petition the courts for relief. There is already an amendment about recreational cannabis filed, but executive director of Arkansans for Marijuana Reform, Melissa Fults, said her amendment was a more middle-of-the-road proposal.

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“...we could have.”

This will be one of possibly three amendments legalizing recreational marijuana that could be on the ballot next November. Fults said she hadn't planned to file her own amendment, but was especially concerned with the opportunity for citizens to grow their own cannabis.

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“...in the state.”

Fults says she also wanted to guarantee there was an expungement opportunity for those convicted of marijuana related charges and to dictate what the revenue would fund. Excess revenue from the amendment would support after-school as well as pre-kindergarten programs, along with the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences National Cancer Institute and medical cannabis research. Fults said this had the chance to help the medical marijuana industry by removing taxes and allowing for more competitive prices and better products.