

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS ANTONIO BROWN, ANDREA L. BOONE, DUSTIN HILLIS, ANDRE DICKENS, CARLA SMITH, AMIR R. FAROKHI, MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET, AND JENNIFER N. IDE URGING THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION SUPPORTING THE LEGALIZATION, DECRIMINALIZATION AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS-RELATED PRODUCTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.(HELD 9/11/19 AT THE REQUEST OF THE ADMINISTRATION)

WHEREAS, cannabis is a chemical found in marijuana that has been proven effective in treating a range of illnesses and symptoms, prompting a number of states to legalize the use for medical reasons; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2019 Governor Brian Kemp signed into law House Bill 324 making it legal to produce and distribute low-THC medical cannabis oil within the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Drug Abuse funded two studies that explored the relationship between cannabis legalization and adverse outcomes associated with prescription opioids that found an association between medical marijuana legalization and a reduction in overdose deaths from opioid pain relievers, lower self-report of non-medical prescription opioid use, and lower treatment admissions for prescription opioid use disorders; and

WHEREAS, national studies have shown that 66% of Americans support the legalization of marijuana and 90% support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, 11 states have passed laws to regulate marijuana and Georgia joins 33 other states that support medical marijuana programs; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that Georgia has some of the most punitive laws in the country, with possession of a mere two ounces being punishable by up to ten years in prison; a 2013 study completed by the American Civil Liberties Union found that although African Americans and European Americans use marijuana at identical rates, African Americans in Georgia are almost four times more likely than European Americans to be arrested and jailed for marijuana possession; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of marijuana use has disproportionately impacted African American and Latino individuals who live in low-income communities, adding to their over representation in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, 26 states and Washington, D.C. have enacted laws to stop incarcerating their residents for possession of small amounts of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, this decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana results in issuing tickets and fines other than imprisonment which will abate courtroom congestion and allow law enforcement to focus on more serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has an interest in maintaining the public safety and general welfare of its residents and visitors and is committed to creating a safer Atlanta by reducing crime, and building trust within the community; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2017, the Atlanta City Council adopted Resolution 17-R-4411 requesting the Georgia General Assembly amend O.C.G.A .16-13-2(B) to remove the possibility of imprisonment upon conviction of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the continued criminalization of small amounts of marijuana creates a cascade of collateral consequences for minority and low-income citizens, including the loss of housing, employment, and professional licensure.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES, to implore that the Georgia General Assembly enact legislation to support the legalization, decriminalization and regulation of cannabis and cannabis-related products which include cannabis oils and beverages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Municipal Clerk shall provide copies to all the members of the Georgia General Assembly.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions, in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

19-R-4487

SPONSOR SIGNATURES



Antonio Brown, Councilmember, District 3

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS ANTONIO BROWN, ANDREA L. BOONE, DUSTIN HILLIS, ANDRE DICKENS, CARLA SMITH, AMIR R. FAROKHI, MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET, AND JENNIFER N. IDE URGING THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION SUPPORTING THE LEGALIZATION, DECRIMINALIZATION AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS-RELATED PRODUCTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

| VOTE RECORD - RESOLUTION 19-R-4487 | | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> ADVERSED <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED AND FILED <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> HELD IN COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> TABLED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> RECONSIDERED <input type="checkbox"/> FILED <input type="checkbox"/> FILED BY COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE ON SUBSTITUTE <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE AS AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> QUESTION CALLED <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTITUTED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO ZRB AND ZC <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED AS AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE AS AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO SC <input type="checkbox"/> FILED WITHOUT OBJECTION <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input type="checkbox"/> ADVERSED IN COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> QUADRENNIALY TERMINATED <input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED W/NO RECOMMENDATION <input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED TO FC/NQ <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMND/CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/AMND/CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RETURNED AS HELD <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/CONDITION | | | | | | |
| | | | YES/AYE | NO/NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
| | MICHAEL JULIAN BOND | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | MATT WESTMORELAND | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | ANDRE DICKENS | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | CARLA SMITH | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AMIR R FAROKHI | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | ANTONIO BROWN | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | CLETA WINSLOW | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NATALYN MOSBY ARCHIBONG | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | JENNIFER N IDE | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | HOWARD SHOOK | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | JP MATZIGKEIT | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | DUSTIN HILLIS | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | ANDREA L BOONE | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | JOYCE M SHEPERD | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE ON CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED SUBSTITUTE <input type="checkbox"/> ROUTED TO COW <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED <input type="checkbox"/> OVERRIDEN <input type="checkbox"/> NOT ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED WITHOUT OBJECTION <input type="checkbox"/> TABLED W/O OBJECTION <input type="checkbox"/> HELD IN COW | |
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| Certified by Presiding Officer | Certified by Clerk |
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| <p>Mayor's Action</p> <p><i>See Authentication Page Attachment</i></p> | |