

SUPPORT EQUITABLE MARIJUANA REFORM

A GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

Efforts to reform marijuana law in Virginia must be centered around the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.

VIRGINIA LAWMAKERS ARE HALFWAY THROUGH DECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA. HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- ❌ Simple possession of marijuana would still be illegal.
- ❌ Young people could be charged with juvenile "delinquency," required to undergo drug screening, and have their driver's licenses suspended.
- ❌ Police officers can still disproportionately target Black and brown people and use "I smell marijuana" as a pretext to search your car.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Virginia lawmakers to amend SB 2 and HB 972 to **remove all penalties for simple marijuana possession.**

STOP THE HARM NOW

ACLU Virginia

CALL YOUR LAWMAKERS!

Tell Virginia's leadership to support marijuana reform for all of us. They have the power to make changes—make sure they hear from you.

"My name is [full name] and I live in [city/town]. As a leader of Virginia, you have the power to amend Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 972 to repeal the prohibition on simple marijuana possession and use to stop the harm to Black and brown communities caused by civil or criminal penalties. Additionally, you should remove language from House Bill 972 that will punish youth by forcing them to enter the criminal system, taking away their driver's licenses for at least six months, and requiring drug testing. It's your responsibility to pass racially equitable marijuana reform that does not add to the school-to-prison pipeline and make racial disparities in policing worse. Thank you for listening."



TAKE ACTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

HOW TO TWEET YOUR LAWMAKERS ABOUT
EQUITABLE MARIJUANA REFORM



Other things you can do:

Email Virginia's leaders:

acluva.org/act/MarijuanaReform4All

Call your lawmakers:

acluva.org/act/Call2StopTheHarmVA



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on social media and share our content:

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Sample tweets:

SUPPORT MARIJUANA REFORM FOR ALL:

- For decades, the War on Drugs has devastated communities of color. Now, as VA lawmakers consider marijuana reform, Black & brown people must be represented at the table. @[VA lawmaker]
- Equitable marijuana reform has NO penalties for simple possession, eliminates a racist policing tool, sets stage for legalization, and is shaped by impacted people at the table. @[VA lawmaker]

ON HB 972:

- If HB 972 becomes law, police will continue to have a convenient tool to stop & search our cars; and Black and brown people will continue to bear the brunt of the War on Drugs. @[VA lawmakers], please remove all penalties from HB 972.
- HB 972 would do nothing to stop the police from using "I smell marijuana" to target Black and brown people. Marijuana reform is needed in VA, but we must do it in an equitable way that actually helps communities of color. @[VA lawmakers], please amend HB 972 to include no penalties.
- HB 972 would criminalize young people with juvenile "delinquency" charges & burden them with collateral consequences. @[VA lawmakers], please protect our youth and remove all penalties from HB 972.

HASHTAGS:

- **#StopTheHarm**
- **#ProMarijuanaJustice**