

February 19, 2019

## Will Georgia's Hope Act (HB 324) bring marijuana gummy bears to Georgia?

Introduced February 14, 2019, Georgia's Hope Act (HB 324) would legalize marijuana cultivation in Georgia for the first time in history. The bill says its purpose is "to provide for the production, manufacturing, and dispensing of low THC oil. Indeed, "low THC Oil" appears 88 times throughout its 20 pages.

But a few passages suggest HB 324 may bring to Georgia marijuana-infused edibles, vape pens, cartridges, tinctures, salves, creams, and even gummy bears, the kinds of pot candies sending kids to emergency rooms in medical marijauna states.

So, what does HB 324 legalize: low THC oil only? Or the full array of medical marijuana products pictured below? Legislators may want to ask what the following passages in HB 324 mean:

Line 474

What does "amount of low THC oil being processed into another form" mean?

Line 475

What does "amount of postharvest raw marijuana, such as marijuana that is in the drying, trimming, or curing process" mean? (Trimming applies only to making the plants' buds ready to smoke, not extracting THC from the plant to add it to oil.)

Line 548

What does a ban on advertising or marketing "marijuana or marijuana products in a manner Intended to encourage persons under 21 years of age to consume such products" mean?

Line 551

What does a ban on promoting "the recreational or *nonmedical use of marijuana*" mean? (Shouldn't that read "nonmedical use of low THC oil"?)

Line 562

What does no activities "result in the illegal or recreational use of low THC oil or manufacturing by-products" mean?

Line 642

What does "trafficking of low THC oil or its manufacturing by-products" mean?

The pictures below are of THC oils that have been "processed into other forms."



## National Families in Action's Analysis of Georgia's Hope Act (HB 324)

Section	16.12.204	16.12.205	16.12.206	16.12.210
Line	223	310	393	552
Title	Class I Production License	Class II Production License	Safe Access Retail License	Health Consultation Centers
Maximum to be issued	5	5	10	Unlimited
Cultivate marijuana and hemp	Unlimited amount	Limited to 20,000 square feet		"Any Class I or II licensee
Where	Indoors only	Indoors only		may operate one or more health
Manufacture	Low THC oil (+ other products?)	Low THC oil (+ other products?)		consulation centers to provide
Safe Access Retail Outlets (Dispensaries)	5 per license	3 per license	2 per license	information to registered patients
Home delivery	Statewide	Unspecified geographic area		and to arrange for the purchase
Required cash reserves	\$10 million	\$1 million	\$250,000	of low THC oil from a licensed
Cash bond made out to State of Georgia	\$5 million			safe access retail outlet or
Nonrefundable application fee	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$10,000	through home delivery, so long
License fee	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	as such centers have no low
Annual renewal license fee	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$10,000	THC oil on site."
Subtotal Dispensaries	25	15	20	

**Total Dispensaries** 

60

Note: HB 324 does not levy an excise tax on the production, manufacturing, or sale of marijuana and low THC oil. Several medical marijuana states do, ranging from Connecticut and Minnesota (\$3.50 per gram) to New York and Hawaii (4% excise tax + Hawaii 7% excise tax on cultivators & dispoensaries) and Washington state (37% excise tax). Businesses that locate in GA Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties earn tax credits that exempt them from corporate income tax liability and payroll withholding obligations for five years. https://www.georgia.org/sites/default/files/wp-uploads/2018/07/2018-Job-Tax-Credit-Tier-Map.pdf



This product is infused with Liquid Gold Cannabis Oil.

























Trimmed marijuana buds



















































