**Marijuana Bills Synopsis**

**House Bill 210 (Rep. Upchurch & Rep. Denson) -** Introduced 3/16/21. Referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee. This bill proposes to allow the cultivation and possession of marijuana. This bill has not moved since its introduction and is unlikely to move before the end of the General Assembly.

**House Bill 382 (Rep. Upchurch & Rep. Weinstein) -** Introduced 8/2/21. Referred to the House Finance Committee. This bill proposes to allow the cultivation and possession of marijuana while levying a tax on its sale at 10% going toward education, construction, repair and maintenance of public roads, funding of clinical trials researching marijuana by use of veterans, and refunding the State’s costs. This bill has not moved since its introduction and is unlikely to move before the end of the General Assembly.

**House Bill 498 (Rep. Callender & Rep. Ferguson) -** Introduced 12/2/21. Referred to the House Finance Committee. This bill proposes to allow the cultivation and possession of marijuana by adults while levying a 10% sales tax that will go to the marijuana receipts fund, the illegal drug trafficking enforcement fund, and the chemical dependency rehabilitation fund. There’s also a 5.75% tax on the storage, use, and other consumption of any other tangible personal property and benefit realized of any service provided. This bill has not yet moved in the House, but it is suspected that there will be conversation on it, though unlikely to be passed as a law at this time.

**House Bill 628 (rep. Weinstein & Upchurch) -** Introduced 4/20/22. This bill is the legislation that follows the ballot initiative process and is the exact language of the initiated statute that was presented by the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol (see Marijuana Ballot Initiative).

**Senate Bill 261 (Sen. Huffman) -** Introduced 1/9/21. Passed through the Small Business and Economic Opportunities Committee and the full Senate. Now being heard in the House Government Oversight Committee. As of 4/20/22, SB 261 has received two hearings.

**Marijuana Ballot Initiative**

The marijuana ballot initiative, which is an initiated statute proposed by the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, has submitted over 200,000 signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State's office as of Dec. 20, 2021. The language is meant to be submitted to the Ohio Legislature as a bill that would be brought before the legislature to be passed as a normal piece of legislation. On May 29, the coalition will have the opportunity to collect an additional 132,887 signatures by July 6, 2022 (125 days (about 4 months) before the election) to present the issues to Ohio voters on the Nov. 8, 2022, ballot. Below is a step-by-step visual of the ballot initiative process to simplify the process.

1. Create Petitioners’ Committee
2. File Initial Petition with Ohio Attorney General and Secretary of State
3. Create Petition and Gather Signatures
	1. The total number of signatures on the petition must equal at least 3% of the total vote cast for the office of governor in the last gubernatorial election (132,887) and must be obtained from at least 44 of Ohio’s 88 counties. All petition signatures must be from current registered voters of Ohio.
		1. Should any of the signatures be deemed invalid and thus put the total less than the needed 3% (132,887), petitioners are permitted an additional 10 days to collect and file supplemental signatures to reach the total needed.
4. Once filed and verified, the proposal is introduced as legislation to the Ohio General Assembly where they have 4 months to act on the proposed law. **WE ARE HERE.**
	1. If the General Assembly fails to pass the proposed law within those 4 months, passes the proposal in an amended form, or takes no action at all from the date that it was received by the General Assembly, supplemental petitions may be circulated by the petitioners demanding that the proposed law be submitted at the next general election.
5. Create Petition and Gather Signatures 125 days (about 4 months) before the next General Election
	1. The total number of signatures on the petition must equal at least 3% of the total vote cast for the office of governor in the last gubernatorial election (132,887) and must be obtained from at least 44 of Ohio’s 88 counties. All petition signatures must be from current registered voters of Ohio.
		1. Should any of the signatures be deemed invalid and thus put the total less than the needed 3% (132,887), petitioners are permitted an additional 10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) to collect and file supplemental signatures to reach the total needed.
6. Once the Secretary of State determines the validation of all signatures, the Secretary of State must pass the initiative on to the Ballot Board. The Ballot Board must prescribe the ballot language for the proposed law and certify it to the Secretary of State not later than 75 days (about 2 and a half months) before the election.
7. Any law approved by the majority of the voters of Ohio will become effective 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) after the election.