

## **SB 7 Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Background and Arguments for Support/Opposition**

Pennsylvania currently only allows the use of cannabis for medical use. All states bordering Pennsylvania have legalized recreational cannabis, except for West Virginia, which also only allows for medical use. Cannabis can be used in various forms, including smoking, vaping, and edibles. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 3 in 10 people who use cannabis have cannabis use disorder.

### **Supportive Arguments**

- Economic growth and additional tax revenue in the General Fund for state-funded departments and programs.
- Adults should be free to make their own decisions about cannabis use, just as they do with alcohol and tobacco.
- Knowing the product will be of a better quality due to required safety and potency testing (not mixed with other chemicals/agents that could be harmful).
- Reduced burdens on the criminal justice system.

### **Opposition Arguments**

- Some already feel the state liquor stores are a monopoly, and that the system should be privatized. Allowing the sale of cannabis only at state liquor stores further expands this monopoly and does not allow for competitive pricing.
- Taxation on cannabis products can lead to higher prices, pushing consumers to purchase it illegally on the black market.
- Increased health risks, including abuse, addiction, impaired driving incidents, and lung damage.