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**March 26, 2019**

**Urgent Alert**

## **Cannabis Bill Pulled from Vote**

Yesterday, the State Legislature did not act on [A4497/S2703](#), which would legalize adult use of recreational cannabis. The measure did not have the needed 21 votes to pass in the State Senate.

Through this long process, the League, while not taking a position on the issue of legalization itself, championed measures to facilitate municipal implementation of legalization if it were to become a reality. The League pointed out the inadequacy of the initial local tax structure, advocated for strong home rule and planning protections in the Legislation, and worked closely with the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association and Conference of Mayors to assure that the bill adequately addressed expungement and restorative justice.

This delay does offer local officials a fresh chance to review the current proposal to assess what their local course of action will be if legalization becomes a reality. We do anticipate that the bill will be brought back again, but we cannot say with any certainty when. For an overview of the Legislation in its current form, please see the [League's Urgent alert from Friday, March 22](#).

Our thanks to our many colleagues and partners, including the Urban Mayors Association, the Conference of Mayors, and the countless local officials, elected and appointed, who, as part of the League's Task Force on this issue, who charted our course as we analyzed various proposals. Our efforts championing a local tax option to adequately offset costs, safeguarding local planning and assuring social justice are essential for this legislation to advance. The League will continue its advocacy for local governments in New Jersey, providing elected officials with the necessary resources to chart our actions going forward in the weeks, months and years ahead.

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