



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 2026-0164 **Version:** 1

Type: Will of Council **Status:** Adopted

File created: 2/13/2026 **In control:** City Council

On agenda: 2/17/2026 **Final action:** 2/17/2026

Enactment date: 2/17/2026 **Enactment #:** 43

Effective date:

Title: WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh has long supported evidence-based public policy that advances public health, public safety, economic opportunity, and social equity; and,

Sponsors: Barbara Warwick, All Members

Indexes: WILL OF COUNCIL

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/17/2026	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh has long supported evidence-based public policy that advances public health, public safety, economic opportunity, and social equity; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government has taken a historic step by rescheduling cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act, acknowledging its accepted medical use and significantly reducing barriers to scientific research, while expanding access for patients, including veterans who rely on cannabis as part of their healthcare; and,

WHEREAS, despite this federal progress, Pennsylvania continues to treat cannabis possession as a criminal offense in many circumstances, resulting in ongoing arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration that disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now surrounded by four of its five neighboring states - New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland - that have legalized adult-use recreational cannabis, creating an uneven regional landscape in which Pennsylvania residents routinely cross state lines to purchase legal cannabis; and,

WHEREAS, this regional disparity has caused Pennsylvania to fall significantly behind other states, resulting in the loss of substantial tax revenue, job creation, and economic opportunities as consumer spending flows out of the Commonwealth each day; and,

WHEREAS, poll after poll demonstrates overwhelming bipartisan support among Pennsylvania voters for adult-use cannabis legalization, reflecting a clear public mandate for reform across political, geographic, and demographic lines; and,

WHEREAS, multiple bipartisan cannabis legalization bills have been introduced in both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate, providing the General Assembly with viable legislative pathways to enact

comprehensive adult-use reform; and,

WHEREAS, meaningful cannabis reform must prioritize decriminalization, social equity, expungement of prior cannabis-related offenses, expanded patient and veteran access, and inclusive economic opportunity for small businesses, workers, and communities historically harmed by prohibition; and,

WHEREAS, delaying action on adult-use legalization further entrenches inequities, undermines public trust, and weakens Pennsylvania's competitive standing relative to neighboring states;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby calls on Governor Josh Shapiro and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to act with urgency and pass comprehensive adult-use cannabis legalization during the 2026 legislative session; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges state leaders to advance legislation that decriminalizes cannabis, protects patients, expands access for veterans, and maximizes economic opportunity for Pennsylvania workers and entrepreneurs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council affirms its support for responsible, regulated adult-use cannabis legalization as a necessary step toward justice, public health, and economic growth; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Josh Shapiro, the leadership of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate, and the Allegheny County legislative delegation.