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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 527 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, STREET, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE AND COSTA,  
MAY 3, 2019

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 3, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Providing for a nonbinding Statewide referendum on the  
2 legalization of marijuana for personal use by adults in this  
3 Commonwealth.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Legalization  
8 of Marijuana for Personal Use by Adults Referendum Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative findings.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) The General Assembly enacted the act of April 17,  
12 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), known as the Medical Marijuana Act, in  
13 2016, the implementation of which is well underway and has  
14 been successfully providing access to medical marijuana for  
15 two years.

16 (2) It is time that the electors of this Commonwealth be  
17 given the opportunity to express their views on the  
18 legalization of marijuana for personal use by adults in this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (3) The power of government lies with the people of this  
3 Commonwealth, as provided in section 2 of Article I of the  
4 Constitution of Pennsylvania:

5 All power is inherent in the people, and all free  
6 governments are founded on their authority and  
7 instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For  
8 the advancement of these ends they have at all times  
9 an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter,  
10 reform or abolish their government in such manner as  
11 they may think proper.

12 (4) Consistent with the inherent power in the  
13 Constitution of Pennsylvania, the electorate has the  
14 authority to express its opinion for informational purposes  
15 on the question of whether the General Assembly should  
16 consider legislation to legalize marijuana for personal use  
17 by adults in this Commonwealth.

18 Section 3. Duties of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

19 The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall cause to be placed on  
20 the ballot, at the general election in 2020, a nonbinding  
21 referendum to determine the will of the electorate of this  
22 Commonwealth with respect to the legalization of marijuana for  
23 personal use by adults.

24 Section 4. Referendum question.

25 The referendum question shall be in substantially the  
26 following form:

27 Shall the Pennsylvania General Assembly legalize  
28 marijuana for personal use by adults?

29 Section 5. Conduct of referendum.

30 The referendum shall be advertised and conducted in

1 accordance with the provisions of the act of June 3, 1937  
2 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code.  
3 Section 6. Effective date.  
4 This act shall take effect immediately.