

LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT PROPOSAL
For Interim Committee Consideration
Sen. Mike Yakawich

Bill Draft Request Title: Marijuana Data Dashboard and Reporting Act

PURPOSE

This legislation directs DPHHS, in coordination with the Department of Revenue and other relevant agencies, to produce a comprehensive annual report on the public health, behavioral health, youth, traffic safety, and economic impacts of marijuana legalization in Montana.

PROBLEM STATEMENT / BACKGROUND

Montana legalized medical and adult-use marijuana under a regulatory framework that continues to evolve. While SJ 48 directed an interim study of the public health and safety impacts of legalization, the state currently lacks a centralized, ongoing system to monitor and report trends related to youth use, high-potency THC exposure, emergency department visits, impaired driving, treatment demand, and marijuana-associated mental health conditions. Relevant data exists across multiple agencies, but it is fragmented and not routinely compiled into a coordinated statewide report for legislative oversight.

As marijuana products, potency levels, and market availability continue to change, policymakers need consistent, transparent, and objective reporting to evaluate trends, identify gaps in data collection, and assess whether current regulatory structures adequately protect youth, support public safety, and align resources within the behavioral health system. A structured public health monitoring framework is necessary to support data-driven policymaking and responsible oversight.

PROPOSED STATUTORY DIRECTION

The bill would require the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to develop and publish a comprehensive annual Marijuana Public Health and Safety Impact Report and maintain a publicly accessible online data dashboard.

The bill would require DPHHS to collect, analyze, and report statewide data on:

- Youth marijuana use rates, including frequency and age of initiation
- Emergency department visits and hospitalizations associated with marijuana and high-potency THC products
- Marijuana-associated mental health presentations, including psychosis, depression, anxiety, and suicidality

- Substance use disorder treatment admissions related to marijuana
- Poison control calls involving marijuana products
- Impaired driving incidents, DUI citations, and traffic collisions involving marijuana
- Criminal justice system impacts related to marijuana offenses
- Marijuana tax revenue generated and allocations
- Identified gaps in data collection and reporting

The bill would require DPHHS to coordinate with:

- Department of Revenue
- Department of Justice
- Office of Public Instruction
- Board of Crime Control
- Public health officials
- Tribal governments and tribal health authorities

The bill would require DPHHS to submit an annual written report to the Legislature and present findings to the Children Family, Health and Human Services interim committee by December 1 of each year.

If funding is included:

The bill would designate a fixed percentage of marijuana tax revenue to support data collection, interagency coordination, analysis, dashboard development, and annual reporting under this section.

RESPONSIBLE ENTITY

Lead Agency:

Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Required Coordination:

- Department of Revenue
- Department of Justice
- Montana Highway Patrol
- Office of Public Instruction
- Board of Crime Control
- Department of Labor and Industry (as relevant to workplace safety data)
- Tribal governments and tribal health authorities

Administrative Oversight:

The annual report and dashboard findings must be submitted to and reviewed by the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee (or its successor committee). The lead agency shall present findings annually and respond to committee requests for clarification or additional data analysis.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

- Funded from marijuana tax revenue
- May require limited new appropriation to support data coordination and reporting functions
- May require limited FTE to support data aggregation, analysis, and dashboard maintenance

If using marijuana tax revenue:

This legislation would designate a fixed percentage of marijuana tax revenue to support statewide data collection, interagency coordination, analysis, public dashboard development, and annual reporting required under this section. The percentage designated should be sufficient to ensure sustainable implementation without expanding general fund obligations.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reporting Frequency:

An annual written report shall be submitted to the Legislature by December 1 of each year. The public online dashboard shall be updated at least quarterly as data becomes available.

Required Metrics:

The report and dashboard must include, at a minimum:

- Youth marijuana use rates and trends
- Emergency department visits and hospitalizations associated with marijuana and high-potency THC products
- Marijuana-associated mental health conditions
- Substance use disorder treatment admissions related to marijuana
- Poison control calls involving marijuana products
- Impaired driving incidents and traffic collision data
- Criminal justice system data related to marijuana offenses
- Marijuana tax revenue generated and allocations

- Identified data gaps and limitations

Public Transparency Requirements:

The annual report and dashboard must be publicly accessible online in a searchable, user-friendly format. Data shall be disaggregated by age group, county, and product type when available and legally permissible. Methodology and data sources must be clearly identified.

Committee Presentation Requirement:

DPHHS shall present the annual report and respond to questions before the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee, or its successor committee, each interim year.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Effective Date:

This legislation is effective July 1, 2026.

Initial Deliverable Due:

The first annual Marijuana Public Health and Safety Impact Report shall be submitted to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2027.

Ongoing Reporting Cycle:

Beginning in 2027 and each year thereafter, DPHHS shall submit an annual written report by December 1. The public online dashboard shall be maintained continuously and updated at least quarterly as data becomes available.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

This legislation is expected to improve legislative oversight by establishing a consistent and centralized reporting structure on the public health and safety impacts of marijuana policy. By consolidating fragmented data across agencies into an annual report and publicly accessible dashboard, it increases transparency and provides lawmakers and communities with objective information.

A structured monitoring framework will support data-informed policymaking, help identify gaps in prevention and treatment systems, and strengthen Montana's overall prevention and public health infrastructure through coordinated, evidence-based decision-making.