Maryland Legalizes Medical Marijuana, Decriminalizes Possession

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Governor Martin O'Malley (D–Md.) signed into law two bills related to marijuana, according to The Speakeasy Blog. House Bill 881 legalized medical marijuana and Senate Bill 364 decriminalized possession of marijuana.

Maryland residents with qualifying conditions may use marijuana with a doctor's recommendation. A commission will determine regulations for cultivation and dispensaries before implementation begins June 1.

Starting October 1, possession in Maryland of less than 10 grams of marijuana is now a civil offense with a fine of up to $100 for a first offense, up to $250 for a second offense and up to $500 for each following offense.

Maryland becomes the 18th state to decriminalize possession of marijuana and the 21st state to legalize medical marijuana.

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