

**RESOLUTION 21-10981**

**A RESOLUTION REFERRING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO  
PROHIBIT ADULT-USE MARIJUANA DISPENSARY  
BUSINESSES TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE AT AN ELECTION  
TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, the Initiative Measure 190 (I-190) passed by popular vote on November 2, 2020, statewide, in Yellowstone County, Montana, and in the City of Billings, Montana, legalizing adult-use marijuana and providing for approval of certain marijuana businesses within the State of Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Montana Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 701, with most sections effective January 1, 2022, extensively changing provisions of the I-190 and the Montana Medical Marijuana Act; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 701 provides an option for the electors of the City of Billings to consider prohibition of any or all of the seven categories of marijuana businesses defined in the I-190 and HB 701 within the limits of the City of Billings; and

**WHEREAS**, an adult-use dispensary is one of the seven categories defined in HB 701 that electors may consider whether to prohibit; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Billings wishes to submit the issue whether to permanently prohibit the category of adult-use marijuana dispensary businesses to the electors of the City of Billings as provided by HB 701;

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the electors voting on this question must approve the proposed ordinance to prohibit adult-use marijuana dispensary businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at an election to be held on November 2, 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:**

1. **REFERENCE:** City Council of the City of Billings has proposed an ordinance prohibiting all adult-use marijuana dispensary businesses within the limits of the City of Billings and hereby refers this question to a vote of the people at an election to be held November 2, 2021. A full copy of the proposed ordinance is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A", and by this reference is made a part hereof.

2. **FORM OF BALLOT:** The form of the ballot shall be as provided by law and as follows:

**Summary:** Initiative Measure 190 (I-190) was approved by the electors of the City of Billings in the general election held November 3, 2020, legalizing possession and use of marijuana for adults over the age of 21 as well as certain marijuana businesses. The Montana Legislature passed House Bill 701 in 2021 and modified provisions of I-190 providing an option for electors to consider prohibition of the seven categories of marijuana businesses. This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove adult-use marijuana dispensaries, which is one of the various types of marijuana businesses which were authorized by House Bill 701. The use and possession of marijuana for adults over the age of 21 and the remaining categories of marijuana businesses will not be impacted by this vote, including medical marijuana dispensaries, and will be permitted in the City of Billings upon the effective date of House Bill 701.

**Proposal:** The Billings City Council has proposed an ordinance to prohibit adult-use marijuana dispensaries and passed Resolution 21-10981 to submit this ballot to the voters. Adult-use dispensary means a licensed premises from which a person licensed by the Montana Department of Revenue may sell marijuana or marijuana products to both registered cardholders and adults that are 21 years of age or older. This proposed ordinance would not prohibit the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries within the City of Billings.

**Shall dispensaries of adult use marijuana, commonly referred to as recreational-use marijuana, be permitted within the limits of the City of Billings?**

- FOR** permitting dispensaries of adult-use marijuana, commonly referred to as recreational-use marijuana, within the limits of the City of Billings.
- AGAINST** permitting dispensaries of adult-use marijuana, commonly referred to as recreational-use marijuana, within the limits of the City of Billings.

3. **CERTIFICATION:** The City Clerk shall certify this resolution to the Yellowstone County Election Official as provided by law.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Billings City Council this 9th day of August, 2021.

CITY OF BILLINGS



By: William A Cole  
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Denise R. Bohlman  
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk

ORDINANCE 21-\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS PROVIDING THAT THE BILLINGS MONTANA CITY CODE BE AMENDED TO ADD NEW ARTICLE 7-2000 DEFINING MARIJUANA BUSINESSES AND PERMANENTLY PROHIBITING ADULT-USE MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES IN THE CITY OF BILLINGS.**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Initiative Measure 190 (I-190) passed by popular vote on November 2, 2020, statewide, in Yellowstone County, Montana, and in the City of Billings, Montana, legalizing adult-use marijuana and providing for approval of certain marijuana businesses within the State of Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Montana Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 701, with most sections effective January 1, 2022, extensively changing provisions of the I-190 and the Montana Medical Marijuana Act; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 701 provides an option for the electors of the City of Billings to consider prohibition of any or all of the seven categories of marijuana businesses defined in the I-190 and HB 701 within the limits of the City of Billings; and

**WHEREAS**, an adult-use dispensary is one of the seven categories defined in HB 701 that electors may consider whether to prohibit; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Billings wishes to submit to the electors of the City of Billings the determination of whether to permanently prohibit the category of adult-use marijuana dispensary businesses in accordance with the will of the electors as provided by HB 701;

**WHEREAS**, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at an election to be held on November 2, 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, in the event a majority of the electors voting on this question vote against permitting dispensaries of adult-use marijuana, the Billings Montana City Code should be amended in accordance with the will of the majority of electors.

**NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Billings, Montana, as follows:

**Section 1: Recitals.** All the Recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as Findings of Fact:

**Section 2: New Article.** That the Billings Montana City Code be amended to add new Article 7-2000, Sections 7-2001 through 7-2003, to read as follows:

## **ARTICLE 7-2000. MARIJUANA BUSINESSES**

### **Sec. 7-2001 Definitions**

As used in this Article, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult-use dispensary" means a licensed premises from which a person licensed by the department may sell marijuana or marijuana products to both registered cardholders and adults that are 21 years of age or older.

(2) "Consumer" means a person 21 years of age or older who obtains or possesses marijuana or marijuana products for personal use or for use by persons who are at least 21 years of age, but not for resale.

(3) "Department" means the Montana Department of Revenue.

(4)(a) "Marijuana" means all plant material from the genus Cannabis containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or seeds of the genus capable of germination.

(b) The term does not include hemp, including any part of that plant, including the seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis, or commodities or products manufactured with hemp, or any other ingredient combined with marijuana to prepare topical or oral administrations, food, drink, or other products.

(c) The term does not include a drug approved by the United States food and drug administration pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S. C. 301, et seq.

(5) "Marijuana product" means a product that contains marijuana and is intended for use by a consumer by a means other than smoking. The term includes but is not limited to edible products, ointments, tinctures, marijuana derivatives, and marijuana concentrates.

(6) "Medical marijuana" means marijuana or marijuana products that are for sale solely to a cardholder who is registered under Sections 9 through 23 of House Bill (HB) 701.

(7) "Medical marijuana dispensary" means the location from which a registered cardholder who is a Montana resident with a debilitating medical condition may obtain marijuana and marijuana products.

(8) "Registered cardholder" or "cardholder" means a Montana resident with a debilitating medical condition who has received and maintains a valid registry identification card.

Sec. 7-2002. Adult-use dispensaries prohibited.

(a) As authorized by HB 701, Section 59 and MCA Section 16-12-301(7)(a), and based upon the November 2, 2021, election results, adult-use dispensaries are prohibited from opening or operating within the city limits.

(b) This section does not prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries operating in compliance with state law and city code, including licensing requirements and zoning restrictions.

Sec. 7-2003. Penalties.

Any individual, entity, or establishment that violates the terms of this ordinance set forth above shall be deemed to be creating a public nuisance and shall be subject to criminal penalties as provided in section 1-110 and shall further be subject to civil action to restrain or abate as authorized in section 18-301 et seq. as the city deems appropriate. Such ability of the city to prosecute and/or enjoin or abate is in addition to any other remedies available to the city at law or in equity.

**Section 3: Severability.** In the event any word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, section or other part of the ordinance set forth herein is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall affect only that part held invalid and the remaining provisions thereof shall continue in full force and effective.

**Section 4: Referral to Electors.** This ordinance shall be referred to the electors of the City of Billings at an election to be held on November 2, 2021.

**Section 5: Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after Second Reading and final adoption as provided by law, but the amendment to the Billings Montana City Code shall be effective immediately upon approval by the electors as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council on First Reading this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on Second Reading this \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_, 2021.

DRAFT