



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT

December 13, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 266-2019

The Honorable John R. Ashcroft
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Ashcroft:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated December 13, 2019, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Deirdre Hirner regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution (2020-127). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

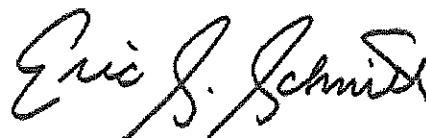
Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- remove state prohibitions on personal (recreational) use and possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and cultivation of up to three plants by persons at least 21 years old;
- remove state prohibitions on commercial cultivation, manufacture, and sale of marijuana by state-licensed facilities;
- impose a 15 percent tax on the retail sale of marijuana to primarily fund veterans' services, state highways, and drug addiction treatment;
- require local voter approval to ban retail marijuana facilities; and
- allow persons with certain marijuana-related offenses to apply for sentence reduction and records expungement?

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Pursuant to § 116.334, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement. Because our review of the statement is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric S. Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "E".

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General