

advisory

FDA CONSIDERS RESCHEDULING MARIJUANA: A MILESTONE IN DRUG POLICY REFORM

The landscape of drug policy in the United States is poised for a significant shift as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) undertakes a reassessment of marijuana's drug scheduling classification. The FDA is conducting a comprehensive review of marijuana's current classification based on its potential medical benefits.

Marijuana is currently classified as a Schedule I controlled substance, placing it in the same category as drugs like heroin and LSD. As advocates argue that this scheduling hinders research into the medicinal properties of marijuana, the FDA is considering reclassifying it as a Schedule III substance. A recent study released by the FDA indicates that the regulatory body may do just that.

The FDA's decision to reassess marijuana's scheduling is a promising development for proponents of drug policy reform. The move could open doors for expanded research into the therapeutic applications of marijuana and relieve firms from the restrictions of a 40-year-old tax code that prohibits credits and deductions for income derived from sales of Schedule I and II substances. Furthermore, rescheduling could lead to more consistent and standardized regulations at both the state and federal levels.

As the FDA delves into this review, it marks a crucial moment in the ongoing conversation about marijuana's place in American society and could trigger further liberalization of the nation's marijuana laws. Whether this leads to a revision of marijuana's scheduling or not, the FDA's initiative emphasizes the evolving perspectives on cannabis and its potential to positively impact public health.

If you have questions pertaining to cannabis business and legal matters, please contact PLDO Partner Benjamin L. Rackliffe, who leads the firm's highly experienced Cannabis Law Practice Group, at 401-824-5183 or email brackliffe@pldolaw.com.



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