

Amendment to HB 196-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT relative to annulling certain cannabis possession offenses.

4

5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

6

7 1 New Section; Criminal Code; Sentences; General Provisions; Cannabis Convictions and
8 Sentences. Amend RSA 651 by inserting after section 5-b the following new section:

9 651:5-c Annulment of Certain Arrests and Convictions for Cannabis Possession.

10 I. Convictions and arrests for misdemeanor or violation-level offenses for possession of
11 cannabis prior to January 1, 2025 shall be annulled by the department of safety and the courts upon
12 petition by a person who has been convicted of such an offense.

13 II. Any person who believes that he or she is eligible for annulment pursuant to this section
14 may request that the department of safety examine his or her arrest or conviction to determine
15 whether it should be annulled. Should the department of safety fail to annul a qualified record, any
16 person so aggrieved may petition the court without fee for further review of eligibility.

17 III. Eligible annulments of convictions and violations pursuant to this section shall be
18 granted notwithstanding the existence of outstanding court-imposed or court-related fees, fines,
19 costs, assessments, or charges. Annulments shall not be granted until any sentence of incarceration
20 or probation has been completed except for financial obligations.

21 IV. By January 16, 2026, and every year thereafter, the department of safety shall publish a
22 report on its website on the number of qualified records removed from its records pursuant to this
23 section. The department of safety shall deliver a copy of the reports to the chairs of the New
24 Hampshire house of representatives criminal justice and public safety committee and the New
25 Hampshire senate judiciary committee.

26 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendment to HB 196
- Page 2 -

2025-0192h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the annulment of misdemeanor or violation-level offenses for possession of cannabis prior to January 1, 2025 upon petition.