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New Law for cannabis uses, approved by the Chamber of Deputies

As we informed in the legal flash 44/2020, last November 19, 2020 the Senate of the Republic sent to the Chamber of Deputies the draft decree which issue the Federal Law for the Regulation of Cannabis and several provisions of the General Health Law and the Federal Criminal Code are amended and added.

Following up on this matter, we inform you that on March 10, 2021, the Plenary of the Chamber of Deputies approved in general the draft of the Federal Law for the Regularization of Cannabis sent by the Commissions of Justice and Health of said Chamber. In this sense, it was ordered

to return to the Chamber of Senators the bill that issues the Federal Law for the Regulation of Cannabis. It should be noted that the legislators made several reservations to various articles, which must be discussed in particular.

From the content approved by the deputies in commissions, the following can be highlighted in relation to the bill originally sent by the Senate:

 The legalization of the recreational use of marijuana is ratified, expressly recognizing the right of those over 18 to consume psychoactive cannabis; as long as it is not done in front of minors or in spaces called 100% smoke-free.

- The commercialization of marijuana is legalized, after obtaining the corresponding permit.
- The decriminalization of possession for personal consumption of up to 28 grams is ratified.
- The new licensing system to participate in the different activities of production and commercialization of cannabis is ratified.
- The proposal eliminated the possibility to create the Mexican Cannabis Institute as a new authority in charge of supervising

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the cannabis supply and consumption chain. Instead, it is proposed to grant the corresponding powers to the National Council against Addictions (CONADIC), the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFERPIS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) for the regulation of hemp.

- It establishes the possibility of obtaining a permit to possess and cultivate up to 6 cannabis plants at home for selfconsumption, which may increase to 8 if there are more than two consumers in the household.
- Home cultivation for personal use for recreational purposes will require a permit issued by COFEPRIS.
- Further regulation of the operation of cannabis associations and their members is established.
- The commercialization of psychoactive cannabis and its derivatives for recreational use will be carried out exclusively within the national territory in authorized establishments.
- General rules are established for the packaging and labeling of psychoactive cannabis products for sale to end consumers.
- The production of cannabis for research and technological development purposes must be authorized by COFEPRIS, which must issue the applicable regulations for such activity.

 A transitory article is incorporated which provides for the immediate release of persons who are being prosecuted or have been sentenced for the crimes to be decriminalized, without the elimination of their criminal record.

Likewise, the ruling approved by the commissions of the Chamber of Deputies proposes the following sanctions:

- Possession between 28 grams and up to 5.6 kilograms will be considered an administrative offense.
- Unauthorized commercialization between 200 grams and up to 5.6 kilograms will be sanctioned with 1 to 3 years in prison.
- Whoever produces, transports, traffics, trades or supplies cannabis in quantities greater than 5.6 kilograms will be punished with 5 to 15 years of imprisonment.
- Simple possession in quantities of more than 5.6 kilograms will be punished with a prison sentence of 10 months to 3 years.
- Anyone who, without the corresponding authorization, possesses for commercial purposes quantities of more than 5.6 kilograms will be punished with a prison sentence of 3 to 7 years.

In the following days, each of the reservations made to the bill will be discussed and approved, so we will be informing you in due time about the relevant developments that arise during this process.

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