

# THE WEEK

## MUST CLICKS



Will the GOP pay for backing gay marriage?



Michele Bachmann's Iowa-centric campaign announcement



Was Bristol Palin date-raped?



Is Syria provoking war with Turkey?

### MARIJUANA IN AMERICA

NEXT IN THIS TOPIC ▶

#### 1 OPINION BRIEF



**LATEST:** California's 'marijuana grannies' and the 800 pot-plant bust

#### 2 CARTOON VIEW



California's intoxicating choice

#### 3 INSTANT GUIDE



Ron Paul and Barney Frank's 'unusual' alliance to legalize pot

#### 4 FACT SHEET



Miracle-Gro for marijuana?

#### 5 IRONY ALERT



Irony alert: Anti-marijuana lawmaker busted for marijuana

#### 6 CONTROVERSY



Marijuana without the high: A painkiller breakthrough

#### 7 ONLY IN AMERICA



Only in America: Can

INSTANT GUIDE

 Digg This Story

## Ron Paul and Barney Frank's 'unusual' alliance to legalize pot

Can a Texas libertarian and Massachusetts liberal really get the feds to mellow out and quit prosecuting weed smokers?

POSTED ON JUNE 24, 2011, AT 2:41 PM

One's a Texan gunning for the GOP presidential nomination. The other's an outspoken Massachusetts Democrat and one of the first openly gay members of Congress. But though Reps. Ron Paul (R-Texas) and Barney Frank (D-Mass.) are an odd couple, they've found common ground in marijuana. The two have formed "an unusual congressional alliance" to co-sponsor a bill that would give states the right to legalize and tax marijuana, just as they currently do with booze. Here, a brief guide to the initiative:



Opposites attract? Reps. Ron Paul (R-Texas) and Barney Frank (D-Mass.) are joining forces to limit the feds' role in marijuana prohibition. Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

[SEE ALL 45 PHOTOS](#) ▶

#### What would the bill do?

H.R. 2306, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act, would allow states to [dictate their own pot policies](#), and repeal federal penalties for marijuana production, distribution, and possession. The feds' role in reefer regulation would be winnowed down to merely preventing marijuana from being imported into states where it is not legal. H.R. 2306 is modeled after the 21st amendment, which repealed national alcohol prohibition in 1933.

#### Who else is sponsoring it?

A handful of Democrats: Reps. John Conyers (Mich.), Steve Cohen (Tenn.), Jared Polis (Colo.) and Barbara Lee (Calif.). "Paul's presence atop the legislation clears the way for advocates to slap the 'bipartisan' tag on the proposal," [says Josh Voorhees at Slate](#).

#### Does this mean Paul and Frank are big potheads?

No. [Frank says](#) "he's not advocating marijuana use, but believes that criminal prosecution is a waste of resources and an intrusion on personal freedom." His office has been quick to emphasize that this "is not a [legalization bill](#)," but merely one that limits the federal government's role. Paul has long been a vocal supporter of state sovereignty when it comes to marijuana legalization. Still, now that he's a Republican presidential candidate, this is a "gutsy move," [says Stephen Reader at WNYC](#).

 SEARCH THE SITE

### Get 4 FREE ISSUES

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE  
SUBSCRIBE NOW  
GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION  
CUSTOMER SERVICE



### SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Email Address

[SAMPLE NEWSLETTER](#) / [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

### TAKE OUR POLL

YOUR OPINION MATTERS



Is natural gas a viable energy solution?

### MOST READ MOST EMAILED

- [America's flesh-eating cocaine problem](#)
- [President Cuomo](#)
- [Did Shakespeare smoke pot?](#)
- [Will the GOP pay for backing gay marriage?](#)
- [Why 'rockstar hackers' LulzSec disbanded: 4 theories](#)
- [Michele Bachmann's Iowa-centric campaign announcement](#)
- [Jose Antonio Vargas' immigration confession: 4 lessons](#)
- [Was Bristol Palin date-raped?](#)
- [Is education the next bubble?](#)
- [Can natural gas really prevent an 'energy nightmare'?](#)

Willie Nelson evade pot charges with a song?

8 AUDIO



The pot grower who called 911 on himself

See our complete coverage of:

- ▶ MARIJUANA IN AMERICA
- ▶ DRUGS

How many states is marijuana legal in?

According to the Medical Marijuana site ProCon.org, 16 states have enacted laws legalizing marijuana for medicinal use, though federal law still prohibits pot and some medical pot dispensaries have been raided by the feds. Because of the cloudy legality, some states that have passed medicinal marijuana legislation have been hesitant to implement it.

Does the Paul-Frank pot bill stand a chance?

It's a long shot, but advocates say the point is to draw attention to the issue. "A bill like this is going to get talked about quite a bit," says Morgan Fox with the Marijuana Policy Project. "I think it will spark a strong debate in the media, and we hope to get some [House] floor time for it."

Sources: CNN, NPR, ProCon.org, Slate, Wall Street Journal, WNYC

Click here for your 4 FREE issues of The Week

NEXT IN THIS TOPIC ▶

- COMMENT
- PRINT
- EMAIL
- f
- t
- g+
- st

RELATED KEYWORDS

Ron Paul, Barney Frank, Congress, Marijuana, Legalization, Prohibition, Pot, 21st Amendment, 18th Amendment, Medicinal Marijuana

SEE OTHER TOPICS



**Energy Crisis** Germany swears off nuclear power: Should we?



**The Obama Campaign** Is Obama's re-election bid really in trouble?



**The Romney Campaign** The sputtering economy: Great news for Mitt Romney?



GET 4 FREE ISSUES

CLICK HERE

FROM OUR PARTNERS

YAHOO! NEWS

- ▶ Sheriff investigating Wis. Supreme Court argument (AP)
- ▶ Jury convicts ex-Ill. Gov. Blagojevich at retrial (AP)
- ▶ Diabetics receive blood vessels grown in lab (AP)

Aol News.

- ▶ WATCH: 7-Year-Old Steals Car, Drives 20 Miles To See His Dad
- ▶ Dentures Returned From Beyond The Grave
- ▶ Pregnancy Simulation Dress Lets Experience The Wonders Of Carrying A Child

BuzzFeed

- ▶ Driverless Cars Now Legal In Nevada
- ▶ U.S. Air Conditioning Budget In Afghanistan
- ▶ Michele Bachmann's First Campaign Promise Is A Killer!

newser

- ▶ Syria's Assad Meets With ... Dennis Kucinich?
- ▶ Ex-Citigroup VP Charged With Embezzling \$19.2M
- ▶ Blagojevich Guilty on 17 of 20 Charges

POWERWALL

- ▶ William and Kate Check Out Wimbledon
- ▶ Power Player Vacation Destinations
- ▶ Wimbledon Wannabes: Power Players Show Their Love for Tennis

mental\_floss

- ▶ 10 Technology Prizes That Propelled Us Forward
- ▶ 10 Director's Cuts That Change The Plot
- ▶ The Quick 10: Itsy-Bitsy, Teeny-Weeny Trivia About Bikinis

REAL CLEAR POLITICS

- ▶ Palin Not Reaching Out to Key Iowans Ahead of Visit
- ▶ Sen. DeMint and Reps. Pelosi and Rogers on "State of the Union"
- ▶ Interview with Presidential Candidate Gary Johnson

salon.com

- ▶ Wisconsin justice says court fight led to choking
- ▶ Chinese dissident freed; more surveillance feared
- ▶ Opposition to meet in Syria after bloody weekend

THE WEEK

SUBSCRIBE / GIVE A GIFT / PRIVACY POLICY / TERMS & CONDITIONS / AD INFO / THE WEEK UK / THE WEEK AU SUBSCRIBER SERVICES / CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTIONS / SITE MAP / RSS / CONTACT US

© 2011 THE WEEK PUBLICATIONS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE WEEK® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OWNED BY FELIX DENNIS. THEWEEK.COM IS A TRADEMARK OWNED BY FELIX DENNIS.