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The history of legislation efforts is not a particularly
main thing.

Murphy campaigned on it in 2017, but couldn't control
the legislature to support it. In 2019, the legislature
in the 2020 election was, to no one's surprise, drew a 67 percent favorable response.

In spite of the certainty of the outcome, no serious effort was undertaken in the year leading up to
the referendum to address the issues that warranted legislative approval in the first place.

The amendment provided legislation would be effective on Jan. 1, 2021, sending
the legislature and the governor's office scrambling to build from the ground up in less than
two months a multi-million-dollar endeavor and create a new state bureaucracy to administer
it.

Two implementing bills currently rest in the governor's office, awaiting a third bill to clarify
penalties for marijuana possession by minors. The lack of punishment provisions was cited by
the governor as the rationale for withholding his signature, describing the omission as a
"drafting error."

Legislative proponents claimed that failing to include penalties for juveniles was a deliberate
policy decision rather than an inadvertent oversight. The two sides were unable

The insights and instincts of the politically skilled are crucial to reconcile the irreconcilable, overcome the seemingly impossible and turn loss into gain.

A governor's office can be an exceedingly insular environment. Perspective is often replaced by a magnified sense of self-importance. Occupying space near the levers of power can be intoxicating, especially for those who've not experienced anything like it before.

It is crucial that a few political graybeards be spanked through out the top staff to deflate egos in interactions with legislators who, after all, hold the fate of the governor's agenda.

To be sure, legislators can be difficult and unyielding at times, but responding with condescension and projecting an air of smug superiority will not smooth over differences and achieve consensus. It is fundamental, practical politics that carries policy over the finish line to reality.

Purists may be offended by it, but realists understand it. The entire episode toward marijuana legislation would have benefitted from the involvement of a few realists.

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