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LOS ANGELES: The city of San Francisco is set to wipe clean criminal convictions linked to marijuana offences dating back over 40 years, weeks after California legalised the drug.

California's legalisation of recreational marijuana took effect at the beginning of January, making the state the largest legal market for pot in the world.

The move will affect thousands whose marijuana convictions hurt their employment prospects and obtaining certain government benefits, according to *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

Eight US states, including Colorado and the federal capital Washington, have already legalised recreational marijuana use. — AFP