

AK99-105

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date:

4/27/99

Submitted by: Assemblymember CARLSON

Prepared by: Assembly Office

For reading: APRIL 27, 1999

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 99- 105

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
AMENDMENTS TO ALASKA STATUTES GOVERNING THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR
MEDICAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, in November 1998, the voters of Alaska approved Ballot Measure No. 8, to allow certain patients with debilitating medical conditions to use marijuana for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the law created by this initiative became effective on March 4, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the law establishes a state registry for patients using marijuana but does not require registration in order for persons to have a legal right to smoke or otherwise ingest marijuana for what are deemed to be medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the new law allows persons who choose not to register with the State to smoke marijuana in a public place and in a way that endangers the health and well-being of other persons; and

WHEREAS, the new law may result in policies requiring that the "medical use" of marijuana be accommodated at the workplace, in schools, on school buses, and in prisons; and

WHEREAS, the new law completely removes marijuana possessed for medical purposes from the list of controlled substances found in Title 11, Chapter 71 of Alaska Statutes, a list which otherwise includes and regulates all other drugs that can be presented by doctors; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Anchorage Police Department has testified before the Alaska Legislature that the lack of a registration requirement and the absence of firm possession limits in the new law will make it difficult for law enforcement to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate users of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Director of the Alaska Department of Public Safety has testified before the Alaska Legislature that the failure of the new law to include mandatory registration and firm possession limits will make it difficult for law enforcement officers to effectively enforce Alaska's drug laws; and

2 WHEREAS, failure of the new law to draw a "bright line" between legitimate and
3 illegitimate use of marijuana may actually result in unintentional arrest and/or prosecution
4 of individuals who have a bona fide need to use marijuana for medical purposes.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:
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7 That the Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature to enact legislation that will amend
8 the medical marijuana law to address the concerns raised by representatives of the
9 Anchorage Police Department and the Department of Public Safety, including a
10 requirement that all persons using marijuana for medical purposes be registered and
11 establishing firm limits on the amount of marijuana that can be possessed for medical use.

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13 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 27th day of
14 April, 1999.

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Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk