



Representative Harriet Drummond Sponsor Statement

HB 316 Limiting Access to Marijuana Records

House Bill 316 is designed to seal court records and make confidential online records of people who've been convicted of simple possession charges of schedule VIA (Six-A) marijuana misdemeanor.

The voter initiative to legalize marijuana passed in 2014. It created a growing new industry that has generated a new pool of wealth for Alaskans and revenue for the state. However, in legalizing recreational marijuana, the voter initiative did not address expungement of marijuana crimes that people had been convicted of prior to the date of legalization.

Alaskans who've been convicted should not be passed up for employment opportunities or career advances, for possessing something that is now legal. HB 316 will eliminate a barrier that has kept people from achieving their full potential and open new opportunities for those who may have been limited because of their record.

To qualify for what HB 316 would affect, the possession charge would have to be a non-violent, standalone offense with possession of a schedule VIA (Six-A) controlled substance that is now legal under AS 17.38. The intent of the bill is to eliminate restrictions that may be keeping Alaskans from gaining employment, find housing, qualify for schooling, or advancing in certifications.