

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2689
Fax: (907) 465-3472
1-800-665-2689



270 W. Pioneer Ave. Suite B
Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-2921
(907) 283-9170
Fax: (907) 235-4008

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 59

House Bill 59 delays for no more than a year the regulations regarding manufacturing and commercialization of marijuana concentrates to allow for a smooth implementation of the initiative and charges the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board with creating regulations relating to marijuana concentrates that include labeling and packaging requirements and prohibitions on the combining of marijuana concentrates with nicotine or alcohol.

Through Ballot Measure Two the voters of Alaska approved the creation of a commercial manufacturing and retail industry for marijuana and tasked the legislature with creating the guiding regulations. The intention of House Bill 59 is to break the regulations into two units; the first to deal with the growing, manufacturing, and retail of plant products and the second relating to the extraction of compounds from marijuana into concentrates to be infused into a variety of edible and non-edible products.

This new industry will require complex regulations to ensure public safety and protect our residents against federal prosecution. We do not want to short-change the regulations that will establish growing, manufacturing and retail of basic marijuana products by tasking the regulating agency with too much in the short time span of seven months after the end of this legislative session. Regulations on marijuana concentrates have proven to be among the most complex and troublesome for other regions that have implemented similar legislation. For instance, issues arose around assumed or apparent serving sizes for edible products for those recreational users not a familiar with the effects of THC ingestion, and emergency provisions have been considered to strengthen packaging and labeling requirements in response to unforeseen medical complications.

It is important that Alaskans gain access to the products they elected through the initiative process, but it is also important that the regulations are done right so this new industry can succeed. HB 59 will not delay the commercialization of concentrates should the board have regulations ready before the end of the year, but it will allow regulations to focus first on growing and manufacturing of marijuana plants. By delaying marijuana concentrates by no more than a year, HB 59 gives the regulating agencies adequate time to create the regulations while allowing the commercialization of marijuana plants to begin on schedule.