



## HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### House Bill 79

#### *Marijuana Regulation; Controlled Substances; Crimes; Defenses*

House Bill 79 revises Alaska's criminal statutes to ensure that marijuana is kept away from our children, that public health and safety are guaranteed, that privacy rights are secure, and to provide proper punishments for illegal activity related to marijuana.

House Bill 79 lays out clear rules for the public and for law enforcement; it criminalizes giving marijuana to someone under 21 while eliminating marijuana from the controlled substances schedule. The bill amends statutes relating to probation and parole, protective orders, and defines where marijuana may be displayed.

The Alaska State Legislature has a clear duty to uphold the will of the people while protecting our communities. This legislation is needed in response to the passage of the voters' initiative to legalize marijuana. We strongly urge you to keep the voters in mind and support House Bill 79.