

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

WHILE IN SESSION
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 465-3704

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WHILE IN ANCHORAGE
1500 W BENSON BLVD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503
(907) 269-0169

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE



SENATOR Tom Begich SENATE DISTRICT J

Senate Bill 184 Sectional Analysis

“An Act restricting the release of certain records of convictions; relating to criminal history information for state employment applications; amending Rule 37.6, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date.”

Section 1: Describes the legislative intent to reduce barriers to re-entry for those convicted of low-level marijuana possession, which would no longer be considered crimes today.

Section 2: Prohibits the Department of Public Safety, and any designated reporting agency, from disclosing any criminal records associated with possession of less than one ounce of a schedule VIA controlled substance conviction, covering both State Statute and municipal ordinance. These cases will be protected from disclosure only if marijuana possession is the only crime for which the person was convicted in a particular criminal case. A schedule VIA controlled substance considered to have the lowest degree of danger to users. Marijuana is the only VIA drug.

Section 3: Makes Alaska Court System’s records of criminal cases involving convictions for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana confidential. Those cases would not be available on Court View.

Section 4: Limits a State agency’s ability to ask a job applicant if they have been convicted of a crime. This section makes an exception for any position associated with the criminal justice field.

Section 5: Indirectly amends Alaska Court System Rules of Administration by making certain cases confidential.

Section 6: Because Section 5 indirectly amends a court rule, this legislation will require a two-thirds vote as described by the Alaska Constitution.

Section 7: Provides 120 days for this legislation to take effect after bill signing, giving the Courts as well as affected agencies time to change their reporting protocols.