



Representative Harriet Drummond
Sponsor Statement

HB 316 Marijuana Expungement

House Bill 316 is designed to seal court records and wipe Court View of the records of people who've been convicted of possession charges of schedule VIA (Six-A) marijuana misdemeanors prior to legalization in Alaska on February 24th, 2015.

The voter initiative to legalize marijuana passed in 2014 which has created a growing new industry that has generated a new pool of wealth for Alaska. However, in legalizing recreational marijuana, the voter initiative did not address expungement for marijuana crimes that people had been convicted of prior the point 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 of success, 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 offense with possession of a schedule VIA (Six-A) controlled substance that is now legal under AS 17.38 if committed since February 24th, 2015.