

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Bill 8 Version A **Sectional Analysis** *February 25, 2020*

“An Act restricting the release of certain records of convictions; amending Rule 37.6, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date.”

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

Section 2: Prohibits the Department of Public Safety, and any designated reporting agency, from disclosing any criminal records under Alaska Statutes and municipal ordinances associated with possession of less than one ounce of a schedule VIA controlled substance conviction. These cases will be protected from disclosure only if marijuana possession is the only crime for which the person was convicted in a 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: Limits access to Alaska Court System’s records of criminal cases involving convictions for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana on Court View.

Section 4: Amends Alaska Court System Rules of Administration through an Indirect Court Rule Amendment that limits access to certain criminal records.

Section 5: Because Section 4 indirectly amends a court rule, this legislation will require a two-thirds vote as described by the Alaska Constitution.

Section 6: Provides 120 days for this legislation to take effect after bill signing, giving the Courts and affected agencies time to change their reporting protocols.