

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

EDUCATION

ETHICS

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

JUDICIARY

TRANSPORTATION



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

SENATOR Löki Gale Tobin

Education Committee Chair

Senate Bill 100 “Access to Marijuana Conviction Records”

Version: 33-LS0579\B

In 2014, Alaskans voted to legalize the cultivation, sale, possession, and recreational use of marijuana for persons 21 years of age or older. Despite this, some Alaskans remain blocked from employment, housing, and other opportunities due to previous marijuana possession convictions that today are recognized as non-criminal activities.

Senate Bill 100 would make confidential the records of individuals who were convicted of minor marijuana crimes, were 21 years of age or older at the time of the offense and were not charged with any other crimes in the same incident. The records would be removed from some background checks administered by the Department of Public Safety, if requested by the convicted individual. Furthermore, the bill would prohibit the Alaska Court System from publishing records of these violations on Court View, an action they already do through Court Order.

Passing this legislation would change the lives of the approximately 8,000 Alaskans that are hindered by marijuana convictions that are eligible for the confidentiality protections in this bill. Alaskans have spoken through ballot measure that the criminal that marijuana possession is no longer a crime. It is time we allow individuals to move on past convictions that are no longer criminal and allow those individuals to have full access to society. I urge your support of Senate Bill 100.