



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN

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Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
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Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 234

"An Act relating to the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 234 proposes to extend the sunset date of the Marijuana Control Board (MCB) by three years.

In October of 2023, our Division of Legislative Audit completed a sunset audit of the Board. In this audit, it was determined that overall, the Board has operated in the public's interest by conducting its meetings in accordance with state law, as well as actively amending regulations and conducting investigation in a timely manner.

As you make an in-depth review the audit, you will see our auditor made note of three issues which should be addressed by the Board and the Legislature as it moves forward. First, AMCO's director should establish procedures to ensure handler permit documentation is properly maintained. Secondly, the MCB and AMCO's director should continue to implement a new license and enforcement information system. Thirdly, the legislature should consider requiring regulation changes be approved by the majority of the MCB members.

Currently, the Board will sunset on June 30, 2024. To allow the Board to continue working in the public interest, SB 234 follows the recommended three-year extension to June 30, 2027. A three-year extension was made in recognition that there may soon be significant changes to the MCB and to AMCO duties. Additionally, this would align the next MCB audit with that of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's next audit.

I urge your support of this legislation.