

Introduced: 3/9/71
Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BANFIELD, FARRELL, FISCHER
MCVEIGH AND MORAN

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. ~~21~~ 55
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a study of certain
6 depressant, hallucinogenic or
7 stimulant drugs.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS Alaska law currently includes cannabis in the definition of
10 "depressant, hallucinogenic or stimulant drugs"; and

11 WHEREAS the penalties for the possession of or possession for sale of
12 cannabis are not only made criminal acts, but in the latter case, the person
13 convicted may receive up to 25 years in prison and a fine up to \$20,000 for
14 a first conviction; and

15 WHEREAS currently there are many differing reports either being worked
16 on or that have been published in respect to the "harmful" effects of the
17 use of cannabis; and

18 WHEREAS these reports are conflicting in nature and there is violent
19 disagreement in the nation as to whether the use or possession of cannabis
20 should be a subject for the criminal law; and

21 WHEREAS not only because of the life-long hardships which must be faced
22 by a person convicted of any crime but also because of the harsh penalties
23 provided for activities connected with cannabis, it is extremely important
24 to our citizens that the necessary information is gathered which would enable
25 the Legislature to make educated decisions concerning the retention of the
26 cannabis prohibitions in our criminal law, and if so, that the penalties
27 are realistic in relation to the activity sought to be prohibited and
28 penalties for other prescribed conduct;

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Legislature that the Legislative Council

1 is directed to gather scientific information available relating to cannabis
2 with the purpose of making recommendations to the Seventh Legislature,
3 Second Session on the retention or nonretention of our criminal laws pre-
4 scribing all activities related to cannabis and the report shall also make
5 recommendations as to any changes that may be considered advisable in the
6 attendant penalties if the Council's recommendation is that cannabis should
7 remain classified as a depressant, hallucinogenic or stimulant drug.

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