

Original sponsor(s): SEN. FAIKS, Coghill, Eliason, Fischer, Jones,
Sturgulewski, Rodey, Kelly, Halford, Uehling, Binkley

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE HESS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49 (HESS)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Supporting the passage of an initiative
6 amending laws relating to the posses-
7 sion, use, and display of marijuana that
8 makes possession of less than eight
9 ounces of marijuana a crime.

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

11 WHEREAS more than 42,000 individuals in Alaska have signed a petition
12 to put before the voters the question of whether use, display, or posses-
13 sion of less than eight ounces of marijuana by an adult should be illegal
14 as a class B misdemeanor; and

15 WHEREAS the current state statutes pertaining to the possession, use,
16 and display of marijuana do not conform to federal law; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska is the only state in the United States that allows
18 adults up to four ounces of marijuana for personal use in the home without
19 criminal penalty; and

20 WHEREAS the current law indicates to Alaskan youth that the possession
21 and use of marijuana is acceptable adult behavior in contrast to federal
22 laws that make possession and use of marijuana a crime; and

23 WHEREAS quantities of marijuana in the home cause a controlled sub-
24 stance to be more accessible to persons under 19 years of age and sends a
25 harmful and mixed message to the youth of the state; and

26 WHEREAS the Alaska Association of School Governments has adopted
27 resolutions at two different statewide conferences urging the legislature
28 to amend the current marijuana law to make the possession and use of less
29 than four ounces of marijuana illegal; and

1 WHEREAS local governments throughout the state have approved resolu-
2 tions urging the legislature to amend state law relating to the use of
3 marijuana; and

4 WHEREAS school districts and educational organizations across the
5 state have passed resolutions encouraging the recriminalization of mari-
6 juana; and

7 WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives at its 1989 convention took a
8 roll call vote and unanimously passed a resolution recommending the amend-
9 ment of the state's marijuana law to make its possession a crime; and

10 WHEREAS the THC content of confiscated marijuana in the state has
11 increased in potency from approximately one to two percent 10 years ago to
12 as high as five to 10 percent in 1989; and

13 WHEREAS recent research has yielded findings demonstrating that mari-
14 juana may have detrimental effects on the brain as well as the human respi-
15 ratory, cardiovascular, reproductive, and immune systems; and

16 WHEREAS the use of marijuana may impair visual tracking and depth
17 perception and may reduce coordination, reaction time, and vigilance,
18 making it dangerous to drive, fly, or operate machinery, as evidenced by
19 the 1987 Amtrak-Conrail train crash near Baltimore that killed 16 people
20 and injured 175; and

21 WHEREAS the President of the United States has called upon government
22 at all levels to enact laws and provide mechanisms to solve the problem of
23 drug abuse in our country;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature joins
25 Alaskans statewide in supporting the initiative which will appear on the
26 forthcoming election ballot making possession, use, and display of less
27 than eight ounces of marijuana illegal as a class B misdemeanor.

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Myra M.
29 Munson, commissioner of health and social services; the Alaska Peace

1 Officers Association; Citizens Coalition for the Recriminalization of Mari-
2 juana; Alaskans for Drug Free Youth; the Alaska Federation of Natives; the
3 Alaska Association of School Governments; to each school board of a school
4 district; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
5 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
6 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.