



HR0157

LRB101 11298 ALS 56689 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The legalization of recreational marijuana is a
3 major public policy decision that will affect the lives of
4 millions of Illinoisans and should therefore be taken very
5 seriously; and

6 WHEREAS, Respected stakeholders have expressed concerns
7 about a number of possible health and safety issues that may
8 arise from legalization; and

9 WHEREAS, Legalization has the potential to increase both
10 access and use among youth users; and

11 WHEREAS, This potential increase to access and use raises
12 concerns about the effect of marijuana on young people's
13 brains, as research has demonstrated that long-term use of
14 marijuana may be associated with altered brain development,
15 particularly when individuals begin regular use during
16 adolescence because the brain is not fully developed until an
17 individual is 25 years old; and

18 WHEREAS, There is legitimate concern about the potential
19 increase in cases of "driving under the influence" (DUIs), with
20 many police departments expressing concern that there is not
21 yet a reliable and accurate way to measure the impairment of a

1 driver who may have consumed marijuana; and

2 WHEREAS, States that have legalized recreational marijuana
3 have seen an increase in homelessness, as people travel to
4 those states for access to marijuana; and

5 WHEREAS, Research from the U.S. National Institutes of
6 Health has indicated that marijuana use can have an adverse
7 effect on individuals with mental health disorders, especially
8 those with a predisposition for schizophrenia; and

9 WHEREAS, Several other states, including Colorado, have
10 recently legalized recreational marijuana and are beginning to
11 record data related to this change in policy; such data will
12 illustrate both the benefits and possible detrimental effects
13 of legalization, whether related to health, public safety, the
14 effects on children, or any number of other issues; and

15 WHEREAS, Such data from other states is a valuable tool
16 that Illinois should take full advantage of before making the
17 decision on the legalization of recreational marijuana;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we urge lawmakers to slow the process of legalizing

1 recreational marijuana in Illinois, so that lawmakers,
2 stakeholders, and experts alike have the chance to consider the
3 societal impact of legalization and examine all of the data
4 from other states that have passed similar legislation; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That lawmakers should not rush irresponsible
7 legislation purely for tax revenues but should consider the
8 health and safety of Illinoisans as their first priority when
9 considering the question of legalization; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to the Governor's Office and the Clerk of the House.