

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Close, Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Mike Schmidt, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/26, 4/2, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Reduces manufacture of Marijuana from a Class A felony to a Class B felony. Reduces possession of one to four ounces of marijuana to a Class B misdemeanor, or a greater amount to a Class C felony. Makes possession of less than one quarter ounce of marijuana product a Class B misdemeanor, or a greater amount to a Class C felony. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Marijuana should not be treated more harshly than other similarly scheduled substances
- Reclassifying the different possession amounts of marijuana to allow for a “B” misdemeanor for possession of one to four ounces will have a significant cost savings to the criminal justice system of Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: The amendment makes unlawful possession of less than four ounces of marijuana a Class B misdemeanor, and less than one quarter ounce of “marijuana product” a Class B misdemeanor. Anything above is a Class C felony.

BACKGROUND: This bill would put marijuana in line with other schedule II controlled substances, but breakout marijuana even further by making lesser amounts misdemeanors instead of felonies.