

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and be Printed Engrossed and be Referred to the Senate Committee on Rules by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	3 - 2 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Dembrow, Roblan, Prozanski
<b>Nays:</b>	Close, Kruse
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Bill Taylor, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/11, 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Refers to the voters an initiative for November 2014 general election that would direct the 2015 Legislative Assembly to “enact laws that define, limit or otherwise regulate the possession, transfer, production and taxation of marijuana that are not otherwise defined, limited and regulated by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act.” Directs the 2015 Legislative Assembly to allow a person 21 years or older to possess, transfer or produce marijuana. Specifies that Oregon law would still prohibit a person from driving under the influence of marijuana. Directs the Legislative Assembly to look to Oregon’s liquor laws for guidance. Allow a person to legally keep six ounces or less of marijuana and three or fewer plants in the person’s home and would allow a person to keep up to one ounce of marijuana in a public place so long as the person is not using and the marijuana is not in public view. Addresses Initiative Petitions 22 and 37. Declares that if the voters approve this measure and either Initiative Petitions 22 or 37 or both, the one receiving the most votes controls. Sets an operative date of January 1, 2015 for sections 1 and 2 of the bill.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Reduction of black market
- Need for thorough review of laws and policy before enacting marijuana laws
- Public safety

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Reduces the personal amount of marijuana a person can legally possess to six ounces and to three marijuana plants. Clarifies that the criminal and forfeiture laws of Oregon should not apply to possession by a person over the age of 21 if the amount is eight ounces or less or four or fewer marijuana plants in the person’s home.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, ORS 475.300 to 475.346, allows doctors to prescribe marijuana to patients suffering from a debilitating medical condition. The Act directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish a marijuana grow site registration system to authorize the production of marijuana by marijuana card holders or their caregivers. Otherwise the possession, distribution and production of marijuana is illegal in Oregon.

Currently there Initiative Petitions 22 and 37 are registered with the Secretary of State’s Office, and would allow persons under certain circumstances to possess, grow, or distribute marijuana legally in Oregon.