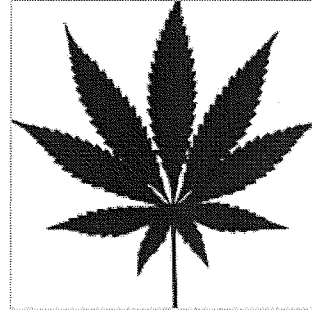




**May 13, 2016**

## **Marijuana Action Alert**

**Share information with your  
Representative on SB 2228**



SB 2228 treats the possession of marijuana (cannabis) like a speeding ticket, with a fine of \$100 for the possession of 10 grams of marijuana (25 "joints"). **People are not going to prison for mere possession of marijuana.** SB 2228 also changes the zero tolerance law for marijuana. The AAA released a report this week saying **"it is not possible to determine whether a driver is impaired based solely on the amount of the drug in their body."**

### **Cannabis Myths Exposed**

By Ed Ronkowski , a former Will County and Cook County Assistant State Attorney

#### ***Myth Number 1: Jail time***

First time Cannabis users don't go to jail or prison. Defense attorneys game the system to keep clients from being sentenced to jail or prison. **It almost always takes at least five arrests for cannabis violations before jail or prison time is considered.**

Every year the Illinois Department of Corrections releases an Annual Report showing what percent of the prison population is in for what type of crimes. The latest report is for 2014 and it shows that **1.4% of Illinois' prison population is in prison for violations of the Cannabis Control Act. None of these are mere users.** This 1.4% are the dealers doing time, most on plea bargained reduced charges, where the seizures are measured in pounds or tons. [Read more](#)

### **Marijuana Users Chasing Bigger High**

The practice of consuming marijuana extract - a yellow, waxy substance that can contain high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the chemical in unprocessed marijuana that produces a high - appears to have risen rapidly in New York City over the past few years, according to federal law enforcement officials as well as people who use and sell the drug.

... The advent of vaporizers and the smaller "vape pen," a device similar to an e-cigarette, users say, is also increasing the popularity of dabbing. Just squeeze the extract into a chamber inside the pen, one teenager said, and inhale. **"And we can do it so freely."**

His classmate says the appeal is the ferocity of the high. Users can sometimes pass out after inhaling, and the stupefying effects can last for hours, and border on the hallucinatory. Marijuana, in its traditional plant form, has a THC concentration of about 20 percent, according to information

distributed by the Drug Enforcement Administration. **The wax used for dabbing can have a concentration of up to 80 percent.** . . . "Side effects can include: a rapid heartbeat, blackouts, psychosis, paranoia and hallucinations that cause people to end up in psychiatric facilities." [Read more](#)

### **Fatal Road Crashes Involving Marijuana Double After State Legalizes Drug**

"There is understandably a strong desire by both lawmakers and the public to create legal limits for marijuana impairment, in the same manner as we do with alcohol," said Marshall Doney, AAA's President and CEO. "In the case of marijuana, this approach is flawed and not supported by scientific research. It's simply not possible today to determine whether a driver is impaired based solely on the amount of the drug in their body." [Read more](#)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

**Share this Alert with** your [State Representative](#) and ask for a **Vote NO on SB 2228.**

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**Forward** to 10 others.

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