

**ILCAAAP**

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol &amp; Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - March 19, 2019



This week is the deadline to get a bill out of a Senate Committee. **SB 7** could be amended at any time with the language to legalize and commercialize marijuana for anyone 21 and older. Please read the following articles and **call your Senator at the capitol (217-782-2000, Switchboard)**.

**If recreational cannabis becomes legal in Illinois, how the industry could grow**  
In Oregon and in Washington state, which approved recreational use in late 2012, cannabis prices have fallen over time, according to a research paper on Washington's legal market in the International Journal of Drug Policy in 2018. **In Oregon, that's because legal production capacity totals 2 million pounds a year -- far outpacing even high-end consumption estimates.**

Consumers **in Washington** now can buy an ounce of cannabis at a recreational dispensary for roughly \$100. But several reports say the **wholesale price producers are receiving per ounce has dropped to roughly \$30 because of oversupply.** **Read more**

**Lawmakers/Treasurer want banks to handle marijuana (illegal drug) money**  
As Illinois lawmakers move toward legalizing marijuana for recreational use, state Treasurer Michael Frerichs is pushing legislation to make it easier for banks [and

credit unions] to work with weed companies.

Twin bills introduced in the Illinois Senate (**SB2023**) and House of Representatives (**HB2980**) would protect state-chartered banks that do business with cannabis companies.

... Separately, **Frerichs also seeks to create a program to deposit state funds into banks that could be used for loans for marijuana businesses.** It would be similar to a program that has provided more than \$1 billion in reduced-interest loans to Illinois farmers since 1983. [Read more](#)

### **Banks are regulated by state and Federal law**

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, said in January that whatever happens, he wants to take it slow in legalization efforts. "We've got to be careful in terms of the development of marijuana," Durbin said, noting the conflict between state and federal laws. [Read more](#)

### **Problems in other states that legalized marijuana**

**California is awash in cannabis cash. Some is being used to bribe public officials** In the more than two years since California voters approved the licensed growing and sale of recreational marijuana, **the state has seen a half-dozen government corruption cases as black-market operators try to game the system, through bribery and other means.** The cases are tarnishing an already troubled roll-out of the state permitting of pot businesses as provided for when voters approved Proposition 64 in November 2016.

Opponents of the initiative say the cases confirm their campaign arguments that **legalization wouldn't end the black market and the criminal behavior it has unleashed.** [Read more](#)

**Dad charged with child abuse for smoking marijuana** in the room with his 6 year old son who has asthma [Read more](#)

**Jury convicts man who assaulted Colorado police officer while high on marijuana**  
[Read more](#)

### *For Immediate Action*

1. Call your [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to oppose the legalization and commercialization of marijuana and Vote NO on SB 7 and SB 2023.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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