

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

FISCAL NOTE

Date: April 11, 2016

Prepared by: Sara Teachout and Maria Belliveau

S.241 An Act Relating to the Regulation of Marijuana

House Judiciary Strike-all Amendment

Sections 1 – 2 Education and Prevention Program

These sections direct the Department of Health to develop and administer an education and prevention program focused on the use of marijuana by youth with an implementation deadline of September 15, 2017. There is one new classified position and an appropriation from an unspecified source of \$350,000 state funds in FY 2017.

Sections 3 – 5 Civil and Criminal Penalties for Marijuana

The changes to the penalties contained in these sections are unlikely to create any cost pressures and may, in fact, result in negligible savings.

Sections 6 – 10 Impaired Driving

Adding marijuana to open container and impaired driving laws will not result in any appreciable cost increases to the state.

Section 11 Department of Public Safety Appropriations for FY 2017

- Appropriation from an unspecified source of \$124,000 state funds to match federal National Highway Safety Traffic (NHSTA) Program funds for the forensic laboratory equipment, supplies, training, testing and contracts. ***The Agency of Transportation has committed to looking for “soft match” to replace these funds making it unnecessary to appropriate them.***
- ***\$460,000 forensic laboratory capital construction renovations – This funding is not needed since it already exists in the House passed Capital Bill.***
- Appropriation from an unspecified source of \$63,500 state funds to match federal NHSTA funds for Drug Recognition Expert training ***The Agency of Transportation has committed to looking for “soft match” to replace these funds making it unnecessary to appropriate them.***
- ***\$493,000 Governor’s Highway Safety Program moved from DPS to VTrans – This section is not needed in the bill because the funds represent the federal NASTA funds which already reside in VTrans and do not need to be appropriated.***

Section 14 – 15 Marijuana Advisory Commission

These sections establish a three-year Marijuana Advisory Commission with seven members. The Commission begins meeting on or before August 1, 2016 and issues its final report on or before November 1, 2017. The Commission will hire a Director whose position will continue until July 1, 2018.

- 4 members of the public
- 1 member from the House
- 1 member from the Senate
- the Attorney General or designee

The Director position is established in the (Secretary) Agency of Administration (effective July 1, 2016) and there is an appropriation from an unspecified source of \$150,000 to the Marijuana Advisory Commission in FY 2017 to support the Director position and expenses of the Commission.

Section 16 Workforce Study Committee

This section establishes a five member study committee to examine the potential impacts of alcohol and drug use on the workplace over 3½ months. This Committee begins meeting on or before September 15, 2016 and ceases to exist on December 31, 2016. The members are:

- the Secretary of Commerce or designee
- the Commissioner of Labor or designee
- the Commissioner of Health or designee
- 1 person representing the interest of employees (Governor appointed)
- 1 person representing the interest of employers (Governor appointed)

Although there are potentially two public members of the Committee, there are no per diems authorized and no appropriation.

SUMMARY of COSTS:

Sec. 2 Dept. of Health	\$350,000
<u>Sec. 15 Marijuana Advisory Committee</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
TOTAL	\$500,000