



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CODES

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Marijuana decriminalization and regulation

PURPOSE: To examine the potential impacts of the legalization and regulation of marijuana and its effects on New York's criminal justice and public health care systems.

New York City

Thursday, January 11, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Assembly Hearing Room 1923, 19th Floor
250 Broadway, New York, New York

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Forty years ago, New York decriminalized non-public possession of small amounts of marijuana, making such possession a non-criminal violation punishable only by a fine. However, a significant number of people are arrested for public possession of a small amount of marijuana every year. Studies have repeatedly shown that those arrested are disproportionately African American and Latino. Existing laws expose many of these nonviolent offenders to possible imprisonment and a lifelong and unnecessary criminal record that can prevent gainful employment and full participation in society. Recognizing this, the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington have, to some extent, allowed possession and sale of marijuana for personal and/or recreational use. Additionally, New York and many other states have legalized the use of marijuana or its active ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for various medical conditions. This hearing will examine the potential for allowing regulated sale and adult possession of marijuana in New York and how it would affect public health and the criminal justice systems. Persons invited to present testimony at this hearing are asked to direct their testimony to the potential impact such public policy changes would have on the criminal justice and public health care systems of this state.

Persons invited to present testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only and limited to **ten (10)** minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Twenty (20) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Joseph R. Lentol
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Codes

Richard N. Gottfried
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Health

Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on marijuana decriminalization and regulation are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email, or fax it to:

**Nathaniel Jenkins
Principal Analyst
Assembly Committee on Codes
Room 513, Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: jenkinsn@nyassembly.gov
Phone: 518-455-4313
Fax: 518-455-7087**

I have been invited to the public hearing on marijuana decriminalization and regulation on January 11, 2018, and plan to present testimony. My testimony will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide twenty (20) copies of my prepared testimony.

I plan to attend and observe the public hearing on marijuana decriminalization and regulation on January 11, 2018.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____