

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DA 4/13/2016

LRB Number	15-4794/1	Introduction Number	SB-789	Estimate Type	Original
Description Medical use of marijuana, the regulation of marijuana distribution entities, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, making appropriations, and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Current law prohibits a person from possessing, manufacturing, distributing, or delivering marijuana. This bill creates a medical use defense to marijuana-related prosecutions and forfeiture actions.

Prosecutors believe this will lead to a significant increase in the workload for their offices. It will begin with determining who has a legitimate registry card and when it was issued in relation to the stop/detention. This will be time-consuming. Prosecutors anticipate that this bill also will open the door to greater use of marijuana because citizens will consider it "semi-legal." Consequently, there will be more possession without the registry card, and more prosecution. Prosecutors believe that law enforcement rarely sees marijuana alone. Generally, it is linked to prescription pills and illegal drugs, which means increased caseloads.

Due to the uncertainty of how many additional cases prosecutors will deal with, should this bill be enacted, a fiscal estimate is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

As stated above, a long-term fiscal estimate is indeterminate.