HLS 13RS-205 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

1

HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HONORE

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Requests a study of the feasibility and effectiveness of legalizing marijuana possession and use

A STUDY REQUEST

2	To the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to study the impact of
3	legalizing the possession and use of marijuana on the citizens of this state and to
4	report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2014
5	Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
6	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law was
7	enacted by Act No. 634 of the 1972 Regular Session of the Legislature; and
8	WHEREAS, Act No. 874 of the 1991 Regular Session of the Legislature authorized
9	physicians to prescribe marijuana for the therapeutic use in patients suffering from certain
10	types of medical conditions; and
11	WHEREAS, in 2012, a majority of voters in the states of Colorado and Washington
12	legalized the possession of marijuana by any person twenty-one years of age or older; and
13	WHEREAS, despite existing federal law prohibitions regarding the purchase and
14	possession of marijuana, it appears that public opinion may be changing regarding the
15	possession and recreational or therapeutic use of marijuana; and
16	WHEREAS, during the forty-one years since the Louisiana Uniform Controlled
17	Dangerous Substances Law has been enacted, attitudes in Louisiana regarding the
18	recreational or therapeutic use of marijuana have changed; and
19	WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the state of Louisiana to consider the legalization
20	of marijuana; however, prior to legalizing marijuana, the Louisiana Legislature should
21	consider many factors, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Determining how the legalization of marijuana would affect the health, safety,
 and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana.

- (2) Determining the impact legalization would have on drug-free workplace policies
 and procedures.
- (3) Determining the effect that legalization would have on existing criminal laws,
 including the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, the habitual offender law, as
 well as provisions prohibiting the operation of a vehicle while intoxicated.
- 8 (4) Determining the regulations needed for the licensing of retailers to sell 9 marijuana.
- (5) Determining the product labeling, quality control, and taxing regulations needed;
 and
- WHEREAS, if the Louisiana Legislature wishes to consider the legalization of marijuana, that decision should be based upon facts which establish that the legalization of marijuana is in the best interest of the people of the state of Louisiana.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of marijuana on the citizens of this state and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice work in conjunction with and obtain input from the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, the Louisiana Public Defenders Association, the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the office of the attorney general, and any other agencies or associations deemed appropriate by the committee.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Honore HSR No. 1

Requests the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of marijuana and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2014 R.S.