



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 844

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: January 24, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 844 would increase the following penalty provisions of law regarding the possession of marijuana:

- Any person knowingly or intentionally possessing marijuana weighing one ounce or less would be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.
- Any person knowingly or intentionally possessing marijuana weighing more than one ounce but not more than one pound would be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.
- With regard to the use or possession of drug paraphernalia, a person who violates §28-441 would be guilty of a Class IIIA misdemeanor.

As a result of increasing these penalties for marijuana possession, a minor in possession of marijuana weighing one ounce or less would consequently face the same penalty provisions as a minor in possession of alcohol. Under current law, a minor in possession of alcoholic liquor shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

Changes would also apply with regard to a course of instruction which may be assigned to individuals in violation of certain marijuana related and alcohol related offenses.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Russ Karpisek