

RESOLUTION RE: A RESOLUTION BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS EXPRESSING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Sussex, New Jersey is strongly committed to the health, well-being, and safety of its citizens and youth; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders is aware that there is legislation being considered in the New Jersey State Legislature that would legalize the use of recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, it has been purported that legalization of marijuana may provide substantial revenue to the State of New Jersey through taxes that would be established within the legislation, however, this revenue does not take into consideration the social costs of widespread marijuana use. According to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report of November 2017, examples include increased emergency room visits, hospitalizations and treatment for addiction; loss of productivity in the workplace; lower educational achievement; increased unemployment rates, increased accidental injuries; higher crime rates; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana is generally carefully controlled for the amount of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, generally referred to as "THC". Recreational marijuana, on the other hand, is specifically designed to have as much "THC" as possible; and

WHEREAS, "THC" is known to impair physical function in the user including reaction time while operating a vehicle and the user's ability to perceive danger; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey utilizes drug recognition experts ("DRE") to determine whether someone is under the influence of a drug, including marijuana, when operating a motor vehicle and there is no current objective standard for operating under the influence of drugs like marijuana as compared to standards established for driving while intoxicated (.08%); and

WHEREAS, marijuana has been genetically modified to increase the potency of the principal psychoactive substance, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), bringing the THC level from below 10 percent, which the marijuana of the 60's, 70's and 80's contained, to 25 percent and higher, with some derivatives containing up to 98 percent THC (according to Rocky Mountain HIDTA); and

WHEREAS, according to the Lancet Psychiatry Journal, studies have shown that THC potency above 25 percent has been linked to significant increases in psychotic episodes and addiction among users; and

WHEREAS, production and marketing of marijuana concentrates, in places where recreational use has been legalized, commonly have THC levels above 90 percent and are sold in waxes, oils, and edible products in the form of cookies,

brownies, candy, gummy bears, and lollipops that are indistinguishable from products that do not contain THC; and

WHEREAS, based on the evidence-based studies, research has established a causal link to significant societal costs associated with marijuana use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders opposes ANY effort by the New Jersey Legislature to legalize marijuana for Recreational Use; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall forward a certified true copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, all County Boards of Chosen Freeholders, and the Mayor and Council of all towns within the County of Sussex.

Certified as a true copy of the
Resolution adopted by the
Board of Chosen Freeholders
on the 12th day of September, 2018.

Teresa Lyons, Clerk
Board of Chosen Freeholders
County of Sussex