

CACTUS 2012

MAJOR REASONS DISCUSSED IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATION:

- The marijuana, or cannabis plant has many ancient and uses for medicine, food, oil, fiber, and paper.
- As a pest-resistant and easily grown industrial crop ("hemp") it is environmentally friendly and could reduce demands for other scarce resources such as timber products.
- Commercial production and non-recreational uses of cannabis would have potentially far-reaching economic benefits, including new markets for farmers and more revenue for government.
- Classification of marijuana as a Schedule 1 (highly restricted) drug under the Controlled Substances Act is inappropriate because it is much less addictive than other major contraband drugs such as heroin and cocaine, and because it has demonstrated benefits as a medicine, such as stimulating appetite in cancer patients and relieving neuropathic pain.
- Fatally overdosing on high-THC or drug marijuana is essentially impossible; using industrial hemp as a source of the illegal psychoactive or drug compounds is also essentially impossible.
- Reducing illegal demand for drug marijuana would reduce support for drug cartels and the number of people imprisoned for minor drug offenses.
- Medical marijuana might reasonably be expected to be relatively cheap.
- Legalizing recreational use is not recommended, in part because it would be highly controversial and reduce public support for change.