



HR0154

LRB101 05503 SLF 50518 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2016, the law changed and possession of up to
3 10 grams of marijuana in Illinois became a civil matter rather
4 than a criminal one; and

5 WHEREAS, This change did not address those who had already
6 been convicted of possession of small amounts of marijuana; and

7 WHEREAS, To create stronger pathways to employment for all
8 citizens of the State, legislators need to examine the damage
9 over-criminalization has caused, specifically the
10 disproportionate effect on people of color; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a 2013 report from the American Civil
12 Liberties Union, African-Americans in Illinois are more than 7
13 times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession; and

14 WHEREAS, To help nonviolent offenders rehabilitate and
15 have a better chance of getting a job, expunging low-level
16 convictions of marijuana possession allows people to tell
17 prospective employers that they have a clean criminal record;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to the financial benefit of more
20 citizens able to achieve full employment, eliminating the

1 prosecution of pending low level marijuana charges allows for
2 the reallocation of resources and with a focus on serious
3 cases, the safety and security of all residents is improved;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we urge every State's Attorney in this State to throw out all
8 pending low-level marijuana charges and review low-level
9 marijuana charges that resulted in conviction and
10 incarceration to help offer residents a path to employment and
11 in the process be able to utilize our resources for the benefit
12 of the citizens of the State.