



HR0700

LRB103 40228 LAW 72153 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Recreational marijuana was legalized on January
3 1, 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the
5 principal psychoactive component in marijuana; and

6 WHEREAS, Marijuana of the 1960s and 1970s contained around
7 2 to 3% THC; today, marijuana contains THC levels of 80% or
8 more, making it very dangerous; and

9 WHEREAS, The evidence of harm regarding high-potency
10 marijuana use is overwhelming; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety
12 Administration (NHTSA), there were 1,009 car fatalities in
13 Illinois in 2019; after marijuana legalization, there were
14 1,337 car fatalities in Illinois in 2021, the highest death
15 toll since 2005; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2013, the year after Colorado legalized
17 recreational marijuana, traffic deaths where drivers tested
18 positive for THC increased by 138% while traffic deaths in
19 Colorado overall increased by 29%; and

1 WHEREAS, In January 2024, The Wall Street Journal reported
2 that more potent cannabis and more frequent use are
3 contributing to higher rates of psychosis, especially in young
4 people; and

5 WHEREAS, A 2017 study in the American Journal of
6 Psychiatry found that one psychotic episode following cannabis
7 use was associated with a 47% chance of developing
8 schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, while the risk of
9 developing bipolar or schizophrenic disorders was highest for
10 cannabis users aged 16 to 25 and had a greater influence than
11 alcohol, opioids, amphetamines, and hallucinogens; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Deepali Gershan, an addiction psychiatrist at
13 Compass Health Center in Northbrook, stated that up to 20% of
14 her caseload consists of patients whom she suspects
15 experienced psychotic episodes that were triggered by
16 marijuana use; and

17 WHEREAS, Examples of individuals who experienced
18 cannabis-induced psychosis include foreign exchange student
19 Levi Thamba Pongi from the Republic of Congo, who ate one
20 pot-laced cookie and jumped to his death from a 4-story
21 balcony in Colorado on March 11, 2014, Richard Kirk of
22 Colorado, a father of three who threatened suicide after
23 eating marijuana-laced candy and then shooting his wife in the

1 head while she spoke to a 911 operator on April 17, 2014, and
2 Bryn Spejcher of California, who suffered a psychotic incident
3 after getting high on high potency marijuana and stabbed her
4 boyfriend 108 times in 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Multiple acts of mass shootings and domestic
6 terrorism have occurred by habitual or heavy users of today's
7 typically high THC-level marijuana, including, but certainly
8 not limited to, shooter Jared Loughner, who killed six and
9 injured 14 at then-U.S. Representative Gabrielle Gifford's
10 constituent meeting in Tucson, Arizona in 2011, shooter James
11 Holmes, who killed 12 and injured dozens at a movie theater in
12 Aurora, Colorado in 2012, bombers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan
13 Tsarnaev, who killed four and injured over 250 at the Boston
14 Marathon in 2013, and shooter Devin Patrick Kelly, who killed
15 27 and injured 20 people attending First Baptist Church in
16 Sutherland Springs, Texas in 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health states
18 that marijuana use affects the parts of the brain responsible
19 for memory, learning, attention, decision-making,
20 coordination, emotions, and reaction time; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2020, Psychology Today reported that
22 individuals who began marijuana use the earliest and continued
23 throughout adulthood lose, on average, eight IQ points, which

1 is sufficient enough to alter academic success and job
2 opportunities; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2022 Marijuana Legalization Illinois Impact
4 Report found that some marijuana products are infused with up
5 to 500 milligrams of THC; and

6 WHEREAS, By comparison, Vermont has set potency limits of
7 5 milligrams of THC per serving, and Connecticut has limited
8 edibles containing THC to 5 milligrams per serving; and

9 WHEREAS, Citing the dramatic surge in vehicle crashes,
10 increased THC levels, and a rise in diagnoses of psychosis
11 linked to marijuana use, the Illinois State Medical Society
12 supports capping THC levels at 10%; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we urge the Illinois General Assembly to cap THC levels in
16 marijuana by placing limits on the amount of THC contained in
17 retail products, placing limits on the amount of cannabis a
18 retailer can sell to an individual in a single transaction or
19 over a period of time based on the amount of THC contained, and
20 implementing a seed-to-sale tracking system, allowing
21 regulatory agencies to view every gram of legal cannabis as it
22 migrates through the supply chain, including monitoring

1 ingredients added to cannabis that are eventually sold in
2 retail stores.