

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-011

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3 REQUESTING THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE
4 AND LABOR AND THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
5 WELFARE AND LABOR TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A PROGRAM
6 TO MAKE MEDICAL MARIJUANA AVAILABLE TO ARKANSANS SUFFERING FROM
7 DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS.
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9 WHEREAS, Arkansans suffering from debilitating medical conditions and
10 their physicians have found marijuana to be an effective treatment for
11 suffering caused by debilitating medical conditions and therefore, marijuana
12 should be treated like other medicines; and
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14 WHEREAS, Debilitating medical conditions that can eased by the medical
15 use of marijuana include cancer, glaucoma, positive status for HIV/AIDS and
16 treatment for these conditions, cachexia, persistent muscle spasms, including
17 spasms caused by multiple sclerosis, seizures, including seizures caused by
18 epilepsy, severe nausea, including nausea caused by medications necessary for
19 the treatment of life-threatening diseases, and severe pain; and
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21 WHEREAS, Arkansans suffering from debilitating medical conditions
22 should be allowed to use small amounts of marijuana without fear of civil or
23 criminal penalties when their physicians advise that the use of small amounts
24 marijuana of may provide a medical benefit to the sufferer when other
25 reasonable restrictions are met regarding that use; and
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27 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should make only those changes to
28 existing Arkansas laws that are necessary to protect patients and their
29 doctors from criminal and civil penalties related to the medical use of
30 marijuana; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Health should establish and maintain a
33 program to strictly control:

- 34 (1) the production and distribution of medical marijuana;
35 (2) the individuals authorized to possess medical marijuana
36 through a registration program;

1 (3) the amounts of medical marijuana that an individual may
2 possess; and

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4 WHEREAS, the quality of life for many Arkansans suffering from
5 debilitating medical conditions and for the families of those suffering
6 Arkansans would be significantly improved if the benefits of medical
7 marijuana become available in Arkansas,

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9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
11 AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE ARKANSAS
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

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14 THAT the Senate Committee On Public Health, Welfare, And Labor And The
15 House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, And Labor study the feasibility of
16 creating a program to make medical marijuana available to Arkansans suffering
17 from debilitating medical conditions.

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19 Respectfully Submitted,

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24 Senator Laverty
25 District 2

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32 By: MGF/CDS
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