

AMIA

The AMIA News Letter

AMIA

ALASKA MARIJUANA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

AMIA

Serious Cannabis Advocacy

Edition 1, Volume 3 / June 10, 2018

OK, We're Back

It has been several months since the newsletter has published and that is something that we have been working behind the scenes to remedy. As an FYI for the Members of the AMIA we are working on getting more people involved working on different aspects of our connectivity, as in Web, Print, Social Media, and the like. We now have more people in place who are committed to doing specific tasks relating to our communications. We are still a volunteer organization, and working on behalf of our members for Alaska and the promotion of cannabis Nationally. Please take the time to look over the articles and information that we are providing to enhance your understanding of the industry developments in Alaska with the AMIA.

Hoping for a Successful Summer with you,

The Executive Board of the Alaska Marijuana Industry Association

www.alaskamarijuanaindustry.org



...and suddenly, new life for the MCB!!!
Details are in the Legislative Re-Cap

If you push your way further into the Newsletter:

- A report on the Washington DC trip and the upcoming events that the AMIA is going to be participating in...
- A message from the Executive Director...
- News of everything that happened in the Legislative session...

Outlook for the coming Marijuana Control Board Meeting and a quick note about the change of members on the MCB ...and more.

THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The AMIA has been busy in its Legislative advocacy. We watch, react, and weigh-in at every possible turn. However, we wouldn't have anything to advocate for if it weren't for our members! Remember, help us help you, by informing us as to your concerns, ideas, or other valuable intel! We have boots on the ground in Juneau during session, but during the interim it is up to you, the constituents, to make your voices heard. So, let us know how we



can help you craft a message or engage your specific legislators. Lacy Wilcox, the AMIA Legislative Liaison is always available to members, just shoot her a line at lacy@thcalaska.com

Below is a Session Wrap Up, broken down bill by bill!

Already signed into law by Governor:

SB 6 **INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCT; CANNABIDIOL OIL**

- We have sought and received clarification on what this means for 17.38 licensees. Seized CBD products are no longer in the definition of marijuana and will be returned to businesses unless they were discarded in the meantime due to product expiration dates.
- The AMIA was supportive of the passage of this legislation and provided technical input
- Sponsored by Senator Hughes

Passed the Legislature / Awaiting Transmittal to the Governor's Office:

HB 273 **EXTEND: MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD**

- This bill extends the sunset date of the MCB so that it can continue to function until June 30, 2024
- The AMIA was supportive of the passage of this legislation and provided technical input and organized facilitated industry specific public testimony
- Sponsored by Representative Kito

SB 81

DHSS CENTRAL REGISTRY; LICENSE; BACKGROUND CHECK

- This bill passed and included language from HB 319 mentioned below. The AMIA worked hard to support the language that loosens the requirement for annual renewal fingerprints to only submitting new fingerprints every five years.
- Special thanks to Rep. Kreiss-Tompkins and his staff for helping get this through!
- [AMIA Support Letter](#)

Note - For licensees who are getting renewal docs ready for AMCO, this will not be effective in time to prevent you from needing new fingerprints, this year. But going forward, every five years folks!!!

HB 197

COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARIES; AGRICULTURE

- The AMIA opposed this as passed because it specifically excluded AS 17.38 Marijuana from the ability to participate in seed sharing
- [AMIA Opposition Letter](#)

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP CONTINUED....

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- The AMIA worked hard with the legislature to prevent onsite consumption from being prohibited in this bill. In the end we were able to see onsite consumption remain allowable but only in accordance with Commerce regs and only in a building that is freestanding.
- [AMIA Opposition Letter](#)

(additionally) The AMIA would like to thank Representative LeDoux and Representative Guttenberg who specifically advocated for the industry to be held harmless as much as possible in the clean air debate.

* This joint resolution passed and was a huge positive statement supporting our industry & States rights. The resolution also urges the federal government to reconsider its listing of marijuana as a schedule I controlled substance.

* The AMIA was very supportive of this effort, provided technical support, drafting guidance, testimony, and advocated for its federal distribution.

On April 25, 2018 during a Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies congressional hearing Senator Lisa Murkowski offered the resolution to be spread across the Senate journal, there was no objection. She then proceeded to remind Attorney Jeff Sessions of her wishes.

Watch for yourself, link to the right! [Murkowski to Sessions](#)

Ed. Note - These are just the Bills that made it through the session. The legislation that didn't make it is on the next page....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE AMIA BY PLACING AN AD?

WE'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU!

(The AMIA happens to have a few folks who worked in Advertising in former lives.)

\ IF YOU WANT INFORMATION ON REASONABLE RATES //

Contact JOHN BANNISTER via email at:

BIGLEAFALASKA@GMAIL.COM

Did Not Pass the Legislature

(which adjourned its two-year session meaning these bills are dead and would need re-introduction)

<i>BILL</i>	<i>SHORT TITLE</i>	<i>SPONSOR(s)</i>	<i>DATE OF LAST ACTION</i>
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HB 113	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE: MARIJUANA	DRUMMOND (H) JUD	2/10/17
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- Introduced but received no legislative hearings

HB 172	INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION LICENSES	DRUMMOND (H) FIN	4/5/17
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- House version of SB 6

SB 128 5/1/18	MARIJUANA EDU/TREATMENT FUND/PROGRAM	GIESSEL	(H) FIN
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- Senate version of HB296
- This bill sought to take a portion of the remaining marijuana excise tax and designate it for use in setting up and funding marijuana and other drug prevention programs for youth
- [Senate Press Release](#)

(This bill passed the Senate unanimously and headed to the house where it was referred to House Finance but was never heard in the committee)

HB 296	YOUTH MARIJUANA PREVENTION PROGRAMS/FUND	CLAMAN	(H) FIN 2/28/18
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- House version of SB 128
- This bill sought to take a portion of the remaining marijuana excise tax and designate it for use in setting up and funding marijuana and other drug prevention programs for youth
- The AMIA provided supportive public testimony for and provided written support
- [AMIA Support Letter](#)

HB 300 1/24/18	PROHIBIT ENFORCEMENT OF FED MARIJUANA LAW	WOOL	(H) CRA
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- This bill sought to prohibit the expenditure of state or municipal assets to enforce federal marijuana laws
- The Sponsor has said that he intends to bring this one back next year as he will have more time to devote to its passage

HB 316 4/17/18	RESTRICT ACCESS MARIJUANA CRIME RECORDS	DRUMMOND	(S) FIN
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- This legislation seeks to seal Alaskans' convictions for low-level marijuana possession

HB 380 4/5/18	REDUCE MARIJUANA PENALTY: SCHOOLS/CENTERS	GARA	WITHDRAWN
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SB 184
3/29/18

ACCESS TO MARIJUANA CONVICTION RECORDS

BEGICH (S) FIN

SJR 15
3/7/18

FED EMPLOYEES OBEY LAW RE: DRUGS; TONGASS

JUDICIARY (S) JUD

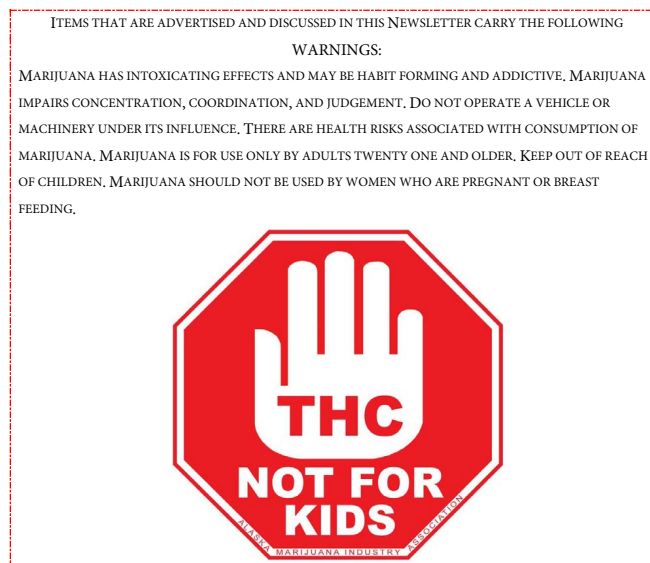
- This bill urges the federal government employees to follow lawful acts and to terminate federal employees who fail to follow the law
- Drafters of this resolution include: Senator John Coghill & Senator Pete Kelly
- The AMIA strongly opposes this resolution and will only offer comment as such if it returns next year

HB 319

MARIJUANA LICENSE: BACKGROUND CHECKS JOSEPHSON (S) JUD

4/14/18

- AMIA supported this bill, provided technical assistance and public testimony.
- Eventually the content of this bill was rolled into SB 81 which passed and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor. If the Governor signs SB 81, the requirement to submit fingerprints upon renewal would change from annual to every five years.
- [AMIA Support Letter](#)



WE ARE WORKING ON GETTING A REGULATIONS SECTION TOGETHER FOR MEMBERS OF THE AMIA ON THE WEBSITE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH UP TO THE MINUTE INFO ON REG UPDATES. CHECK OUT [HTTP://WWW.ALASKAMARIJUANAINDUSTRY.ORG](http://www.alaskamarijuanaindustry.org)

About the Upcoming MCB meeting...

There are not many people who have the time or energy to run down the entire agenda for a 3-day meeting of the Marijuana Control Board, but **this** 3-day meeting has many items that are critical to the forward momentum of the cannabis industry in Alaska. With this in mind, we are providing you with a “spitball” approach to what is going to happen over the 3 days and items that may be worth your time to follow. And no, we aren’t prioritizing for you, we are letting you know what we are going to be following.

Day 1 - June 13, 2018

Remember, there is a new member in the “Police” seat. This will be the first meeting for the Chief of Police out of Sitka. We have heard some good things about him and know from his statements that there may be a more cooperative angle from the Enforcement division of AMCO. That kind of influence would be a relief from the hardline, hard-nosed, take-no-prisoners attitude many have been uneasy with and articulating to the AMIA for some time.

- Immediately after the roll call the MCB is going into Executive Session for 30 minutes considering the appeal from Frozen Budz. This may take longer than the allotted time, but note the Public testimony is not set to start until 9:40 am. The real meat of the morning isn’t going to start until we get a tax overview from the Department of Revenue. The AMIA has been hearing from a large volume of individuals across the state regarding taxes; this should be one of the discussions that will be of value to hear.
- Then we jump right into the METRC presentation. It is hoped that the Board is ready to grill the METRC folks. We have had some member businesses that have followed METRC’s guidance in good faith only to end up running into a N.O.V. from Enforcement. METRC has been compared to the IRS in that they provide solutions to problems presented by members/users, and those solutions in turn become problems for members with AMCO.

All this is supposed to take place by lunch on the first day and you can expect to hear some lively conversation at downtown eateries before Director McConnell takes the floor for her report at 1pm.

- The Enforcement briefing is scheduled to start at 1:30 pm. This should get interesting as it includes the Supervisor’s Report and a Transportation discussion. The Transportation discussion is of interest to several Cultivations that we talked with, but none of the PDF “TAB”s on the Agenda for the meeting, at the time of this writing, are active. So, there is no way to determine specific discussion on these topics.

In the Enforcement briefing there are two Cannabis Classic Events (the 6th and 7th items) on the agenda. It should be worth listening to since they are still trying to figure out what to with events and their presentations.

- Regulations are always interesting. They are scheduled to be tackled at 3:30 pm on Day 1. The Proposed Projects includes the recommendations from the Testing Working Group which has inspired several Letters to the Editor and articles in print over the last couple of months.

Staff Recommendations and Board Requests are also included *BEFORE* the Board Review and Discussion of Onsite Consumption. Onsite has been a moving target for two years now, and this seems to always be the one issue drawing the most attention. The needle on Onsite has moved back and forth and we hope that progress can be made. Hope. Again. The Regulations Session is set to start at 3:30 pm and if the MCB session breaks at 5pm, the entire Regs agenda is going to have to be addressed by the Board inside a 90-minute window. Seems a bit overly optimistic?

Day 2 – June 14, 2018

- The scheduled 9 am start includes an Accusation Hearing set for an hour and then Marijuana Handler Course Provider Applications from three new applicants. There are then (by current count) 42 license applications for Board consideration. Sometime fast, sometimes slow, but there are set times for breaks, lunch and the like so the schedule has no fixed point for how many of these will be handled on this day and how many will be handled on Friday (the 15th).
- We need to pay attention to how many of the Regs issues get addressed. The Board may decide to move any continuation of discussion dealing with unaddressed Regulations items (if there are any) from Wednesday to a time of the Board's choosing on Thursday or Friday.

Lots of action and everybody is welcome to join in the festivities at the Atwood Building 550 West 7th Ave. in Anchorage Room 102. If you can't attend, there is always a crappy phone connection to listen in on (1-800-315-6338, code 69176#), and Cary will be Tweeting. It's three days June 13th, 14th and 15th. That is this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Hope to see you there.

The Picture Page

There would be a whole bunch of really cool pictures of the things you guys are doing out there if you would just email them to me when you have an event or get-together.



...for now, you get a picture of Brandon doing the splits in Valdez.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is going to be a couple of interesting months for the Cannabis Industry in Alaska, and I want to bring you up to speed on several things that I am watching. Please join me in my paranoia/interest/prognostication/crystal ball gazing.

First, the upcoming meeting of the MCB for three days. What will be the most interesting will be getting a feel for the new Law Enforcement seat filled by the Sitka Chief of Police Ankerfelt. It is always fun to watch how the new and old members of the Board react and respond to each other, as well as the standard crowd that attends these meetings. I thought the last enforcement seat was a good fit, though short-lived. We shall see. The agenda for the MCB meeting and the call-in information are all available through ([this link](#)).

Hard-line attitudes toward cannabis are softening from the U.S. population. The United States Senate is moving toward legislation to legalize cannabis; a recent (2018) Pew Research Center poll shows that of the American public surveyed, 61% favor legalization of Cannabis in favor of legalization and 37% opposing legalization. The sore spot in this survey is that 55% of Republicans oppose the legalization and 43% support it, and of White Evangelicals, 38% support. 60% oppose. And before you start thinking that everyone who says they part of the faithful are anti-marijuana, please note respondents who were Unaffiliated religious believers were 78% in favor, with only 20% opposed. Attitudes are moving in our direction. Good news, hang onto it.

It is likely that Canada will legalize as well, which will bring even more pressure to bear on the U.S.

Remember that we of the AMIA (that means you) have a voice in the National dialogue as well. If you haven't yet looked at the WRCBA update that we will regularly post in the Newsletter, take a second to read them when they get posted the Newsletter. We are making some progress with the help of the other State associations that we affiliated with through the Western Regional Cannabis Business Alliance. It is your support on this front by donating to the cause that makes this possible. Our next get together is in San Diego at the end of the month. I will be there working to move the needle for you, and Tweeting.

Speaking of which, I want everyone to know that we have some social media connections of which you may not be aware.

The Twitter address to follow for the AMIA is: @Cary_AMIA

Most of the Tweeting is done during events that you might not be able to attend (or hear), conferences, and events that I attend.

The Facebook most people are aware of, but I am going to tell you again that you can follow a lot of stuff there: <https://www.facebook.com/AKMJIndustry/>

We have Snapchat and Instagram too, and those are just getting up and running. We are a volunteer association.

If you haven't been paying attention, The Association has been working to get more responsive with our presentation of the Regulations. What is in the top of the queue, where they are going and what is being signed and implemented so that we can help you to be more responsive to the changes as they effect the industry and your bottom line. We'll have a bunch more but we are taking our first steps here.

As Always, we help everyone we can with limited resources and funds. We are growing and we have some very dedicated volunteers, but YOU are the reason that we do what we do. We want people to understand the dynamic of how cannabis can help a broad cross-section of the population, so we are working for cannabis advocacy on a number of fronts. If you would like to volunteer some time to the AMIA, or if you feel the urge there is a Paypal "Donate" button on the Home Page of the website.

Please check in with our website as we make every effort to keep things current: <https://www.alaskamarijuanaindustry.org/>

And you can always email us akmjindustry@gmail.com

Hoping this is the best Canna-Tourist Season EVER,

Cary

Yes! The AMIA trip to DC was a great success thanks to the support and donations from the membership, for the full write up check out our 2-page article in AK Leaf, out now!

