

# Assembly, police chief discuss concerns with potential marijuana code changes

By Steve Kirch

Published: Jan. 4, 2024 at 6:53 PM AKST | Updated: 18 hours ago

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (KTUU) - Anchorage's police chief is weighing in on the municipality's attempt to amend its marijuana laws to come in compliance with new state regulations.

In late 2023, Alaska's laws were revised to now allow marijuana retailers the option of offering free samples and drive-thru service, as well as internet sales. In response, the Anchorage Assembly is discussing two proposed ordinances that would put the municipality in compliance with these state laws.

At Wednesday's public safety committee meeting, Anchorage Police Department Chief Michael Kerle reminded Assembly members that under the statute, local marijuana laws may be stricter than the state law, just not more lenient.

Kerle said drive-thru access could make it more difficult for retailers to check if customers are intoxicated or of legal age.

"Usually, when you walk into a place, especially with alcohol in the past, you can see the signs of intoxication. We don't have drive-up alcohol I think maybe for those reasons. But if you're driving up and you're getting marijuana, you're not going to see the signs of intoxication or impairment," Kerle said.

Alaska Marijuana Industry Association Vice President Trevor Haynes said he thinks the chief's assessment is a good point, but that there may be other circumstances where "you have more evidence that someone is intoxicated because you're actually watching them drive through a drive-thru."

"Not only that, when someone walks out of our store, we're not watching the cameras for every customer to see who gets into a car and who doesn't," Haynes said.

"So let's say we kick out a customer who is intoxicated because they shouldn't be in there and we're not allowed to sell them product. You know, I don't know if every retailer is spending time watching that person walk to wherever they're walking to, maybe getting in a car. Where if you see someone intoxicated in a car already, you can report that to the authorities immediately."

Besides the implementation of drive-thrus, Kerle said allowing free samples could also open the door for minors to get access to marijuana.

"There's so many marijuana places, so they can just go around and get so many free samples [that] they can actually start their own business. It's a possibility. I'm not going to say that's happening," Kerle said.

But Haynes said retailers are already essentially giving out free samples.

"But instead of giving them out for free, they'll charge a penny," Haynes said. "So this effectively isn't really changing anything other than you don't have to charge a penny anymore, which is somewhat symbolic just to be in compliance with the regulations."

Right now the Assembly's scheduled to take this up at their regular meeting on Tuesday, but member Kevin Cross says it might be postponed.

[Stay informed with the latest news and weather alerts from the Alaska's News Source apps](#)

Copyright 2024 KTUU. All rights reserved.

### Tinnitus Discovery Leaves Doctors Speechless (Try Tonight)

This New Discovery Relieves Ringing Ears (Watch)

Smart Health Report | Sponsored

### How To Completely Clean A Dirty Toilet Without Scrubbing

1 scoop dissolves grime, hard water stains & everything else. Simply pour, wait, flush!

Splash Foam | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### Unbelievable Car Wraps That Had Us Cracking Up

Some of these should be illegal.

Yeah Motor | Sponsored

[Click Here](#)

### US Residents Birthed Before 1976 Now Entitled To These "Ridiculous" Benefits In January

Tap to see a list of 24 "legal" ways to get a kickback if you're over 45 and live in the US. Many are stoked to learn these

YourPennySaver | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### "Early 2024 Will Change Everything" says Wall Street Legend

VisionaryProfit | Sponsored

### Blake Lively's Cheerleading Photos

These Stars Had Pom-Pom Beginnings

FollowSports | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### Discover the Knee Massager That Could Make Knee Replacements Obsolete

Health Insight Journal | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

### Americans Are Freaking Out For These Ductless Air Conditioner Units

DUCTLESS AIRCONDITIONING | Sponsored

### Brain Scan Uncovers The Real Root Cause Of Ear Ringing

Healthy Guru | Sponsored

### Entire police department walks out in 1 day

Ktuu

### Nearly half of police force resigns in one day

Ktuu