

LAW & JUSTICE

Legalization Benefits Analyzed in Washington State

Recreational use of marijuana could raise at least \$560 million a year in new taxes

(AP) - A state analysis shows that an initiative to legalize the recreational use of marijuana in Washington could raise at least \$560 million a year in new taxes.

The state Office of Financial Management produced an estimate this week on the fiscal impact of the potential passage of Initiative 502, which will be on the November ballot.

However, the analysis notes that revenues would be "adversely impacted" if federal authorities cracked down on the state, as they threatened to do when California voters

were considering legalizing the drug in 2010. Marijuana is illegal under federal law.

I-502 would create a system of state-licensed growers, processors and stores, and impose a 25 percent excise tax at each stage. People ages 21 and older could buy up to an ounce of dried marijuana, one pound of marijuana-infused product in solid form, such as brownies, or 72 ounces of marijuana-infused liquids.

The analysis anticipates 100 state-licensed growers supplying more than 300 marijuana stores that would sell 187,666 pounds to at least 363,000 customers. Those num-

bers are based on federal drug-use surveys.

The state also includes a second



scenario, with 10 percent higher consumption, in which the total tax revenue would be \$606 million. The

tax revenue could reach near two-thirds of a billion dollars by fiscal year 2017, according to the report.

The state estimates are significantly higher than the \$215 million that I-502's campaign estimated would be raised from the excise taxes.

"The campaign has always wanted to be conservative in the estimates on the revenue because we honestly don't know what a legal marijuana market will look like," said campaign director Alison Holcomb.

Even though the analysis was prepared by Gov. Chris Gregoire's

budget staff, the governor is opposed to the initiative.

"This doesn't resolve the conflict with federal law," said her spokeswoman, Karina Shagren.

In addition to Gregoire, a group of medical-marijuana patients oppose I-502, saying the initiative's proposed driving-under-the-influence provisions would make it impossible for many patients to legally drive. The group, No on 502, had raised no money as of late February. I-502, however, has raised \$1.2 million since last May, but spent much of it on paid signature gathering to qualify for the ballot, according to public disclosure reports.

Rob Ingram Youth Summit Against Violence 2012

A youth-driven summit, named after the late Rob Ingram for his dedication to curb gang violence amongst young people within the community, will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Highland Christian Center 7600 Northeast Glisan Street.

Multnomah Youth Commission will host The Rob Ingram Youth Summit Against Violence 2012 this weekend, when youth from across the region are invited to come together to discuss proactive ways to address how violence is both viewed and dealt throughout Portland.

The first part of the summit will be a summit for youth only

to caucus, build community, and consider youth driven policy recommendations.

Invited elected officials and community leaders are welcome between 2:15 and 3:45pm to listen to youth's stories and engage with young people in dialogue surrounding how youth and adults can take steps to reduce violence in Portland.

The goals of the summit are to provide resources for youth to deal with violence they experienced and/or currently experience in their lives; Inform policy makers with the

experiences youth face regarding violence and provide potential policy recommendations to be considered; Educate youth and adults about Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth and the importance of its implementation into all decision making arenas in the community.

Another goal of the summit is to have a diverse turnout of youth from across the region to share ideas and experiences to build a youth movement for social change against violence. To register for the free event, visit http://rob_ingram_youth_summit_against_violence_2012.eventbrite.com/

CALENDAR 2012 April

Multicultural Film Festival Every 2nd Tuesday Each Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
National Wildlife Week 15 (3rd week) Income Tax Day Artist/Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452	16 Aviator Wilbur Wright born, 1867	17 Richard the Lion- Hearted returned to England (1194)	18 Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775) Great San Francisco Earthquake In 1906. Pet Owner's Day	19 Humorous Day Revolutionary War began (1775)	20 Scientists Marie & Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)	● 21 Kindergarten Day Barbara Park born, 1947
22 Earth Day established 1970 Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day National Jelly Bean Day	23 Home Run Day; Hank Aaron hits his first home run in 1954. William Shakespeare born, 1564	24 Library of Congress established (1800)	25 Administrative Professionals/ Secretaries Day Hubble Telescope launched, 1990 World Penguin Day	26 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Hug a Friend Day National Pretzel Day	27 Arbor Day Tell a Story Day	28 Bread and Roses (Film) 7:00pm 6834 NE Glisan Portland, Or 97213
☾ 29 Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sindback in 1913)	30 National Honesty Day Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)	National Recognitions for Month of April: Autism Awareness; International Guitar; Keep America Beautiful; Math Education; National Child Abuse Prevention; National Frog; National Humor; National Garden; National Poetry; Stress Awareness; National Turn Off the TV and Read; National School Library Media; National Youth Sports Safety				