



# The Drug Policy Forum of Massachusetts

## Massachusetts Marijuana Facts

- 2003: A Record **664,564** Marijuana Arrests were made in the U.S. for Simple Possession.
- 1995-2002 **70,794** people were Arrested in Massachusetts for Simple Marijuana Possession.
- 2002: A Report by Boston University Economist Jeffrey Miron, PhD estimated that Simple Possession Marijuana Arrests and Processing Costs Massachusetts **\$24.3 Million Per Year**.

## What is Marijuana Decriminalization?

- Simple Possession is possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana (usually less than 1 ounce) with No Intent to Sell or Distribute while Not committing any other offense.
- Decriminalization allows Police to treat Simple Possession as a Civil Violation for which they issue a Ticket and the Violator Pays a Fine — Much Like Speeding.

## Why Should Massachusetts Decriminalize Marijuana?

- In 2000, 2002 and 2004 63% of Massachusetts Voters SUPPORTED Marijuana Decriminalization where it was placed on the ballot.
- Very few individuals arrested for Simple Marijuana Possession go to Prison, BUT they do go through the Criminal Process and have a Criminal Record for Life.
- With a Criminal Record in the U.S. You Are:
  - *Ineligible for Government Student Loans & Scholarships*
  - *Ineligible for many forms of Military Service*
  - *Ineligible for many Local, State and Federal Jobs*
  - *Undesirable to many Private Sector Employers*
  - *At Risk for Losing Driver's/Professional Licenses, Custody of your Children & Your Right to Vote*
- Law Enforcement Time and Attention Spent on Non-Violent Marijuana Arrests Subtracts from work on Violent Crimes And Adds To Emergency Response Times
- Marijuana has been Decriminalized in 11 States with **NO** Negative Affect:
  - *California*
  - *Colorado*
  - *Maine*
  - *Minnesota*
  - *Mississippi*
  - *Nebraska*
  - *Nevada*
  - *New York*
  - *North Carolina*
  - *Ohio*
  - *Oregon*

*For More Information or References:*

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