

# **One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB189**

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**Chairperson: Senator Les Seiler**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: January 28, 2015**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB189 revises the definitions of marijuana in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, to provide law enforcement more clarity for enforcing possession of substances like “edibles”—food products infused with marijuana. It removes the definition for “hashish” and creates a definition for “marijuana concentrate,” which includes hashish and other concentrated marijuana but with no reference to the weight of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in these substances, as this is impractical to test to the degree that the law currently requires.

LB189 makes possession of “marijuana concentrate” subject to the same penalties as those for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, and makes jail time optional rather than mandatory for a third offense.

LB189 also creates a definition for “synthetic tetrahydrocannabinols” and assesses penalties similar to those for first, second and third offense possession of marijuana and marijuana concentrate, but without the second offense step. This is intended to provide a harsher penalty for second and subsequent offenses for possession of artificial substances that can contain much higher levels of THC than occur in other marijuana substances.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Al Davis**