

AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS

RHODE ISLAND PROPOSED MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL ~ HB 5401

Title: Rhode Island, HB 5401

Sponsors: Carnevale, McNamara, Medina, Palumbo, and Williams

What the bill will do:

- 1. HB 5401 would impose more restrictions on caregivers. A person may not serve as a caregiver if he or she has a felony drug conviction or a conviction for a capital offense. The original Act restricted those with felony drug convictions from serving as caregivers with several exceptions including the department waiving the restriction at its own discretion or the individual's drug charge being a charge that would have been protected under Rhode Island's Medical Marijuana Act. These exceptions are removed from the law.**
- 2. Under this law, as of January 1, 2013, the right to self cultivation will cease and only compassion centers will be permitted to cultivate and dispense medical marijuana.**

ASA's recommended action: Oppose loss of self cultivation and oppose caregiver restrictions unless amended to strike drug offense restriction.