

Zaner – Colorado Bill Pushes for Marijuana Limits to Prevent Accidents

Colorado is one of several states in the country that allow the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. However, at least one lawmaker is concerned at an increase in accidents involving motorists who were driving under the influence of marijuana. Mesa County Sen. Steve King is proposing that the state adopt limits for marijuana in the system.

Under the proposal, the presence of marijuana in the system would be limited to 5 ng of THC per milliliter of blood. The bill would restrict the presence of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, in a person's system.

The bill has been presented at least 3 times before, and has been rejected all 3 times. Sen. King is introducing the bill yet again, because he strongly believes that Colorado motorists driving under the influence of pot are causing many serious accidents.

That belief is shared by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has confirmed that the number of drivers in fatal accidents, who tested positive for marijuana in their system, has been rising. Colorado law enforcement officers also believe that there has been an increase in the number of people who cause accidents under the influence of marijuana.

However, the fact that medical marijuana is legal in Colorado has made enforcing marijuana laws among motorists difficult. Opponents of the law claim that if the law is allowed to pass, then even legitimate users of medical marijuana could be pulled over by a police officer, and arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana. Opponents of the law believe that a police officer's observations should be relied on to determine whether a person is driving under the influence of marijuana, rather than relying on blood tests.