

# The Lasting Impact of a Drug Conviction

## I. Introduction

When considering any changes to sentencing, the legislature should be fully aware of the many consequences that follow a conviction, in many cases for the person's lifetime.

## II. Overview of Conviction Numbers in Minnesota – See attachment.

## III. Sanctions and Consequences

- a. State and federally imposed employment prohibitions.
- b. Public benefits and education restrictions.
- c. Voting rights – Since 1982 there has been a 500% increase in the percentage of Minnesotans denied the right to vote due to a felony conviction.
- d. Private employment and housing.

## IV. Impact upon Juveniles

- a. Public record if felony level charged at 16 or 17, failed EJJ, or Department of Human Services background study.

## V. Racial Disparities

- a. Changes should take into consideration any potential disparate racial impact.

## VI. Available Approaches and Remedies

- a. Stays of adjudication.
- b. Pre-charge diversion.
- c. Expungement.

## VII. Questions and Discussion

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