



HOUSE BILL 464: Revise Schedule of Controlled Substances.

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	June 28, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Horn, Murphy, Malone	Prepared by:	Jennifer H. Bedford Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	Fifth Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 464 would amend the classification of controlled substances.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S347, as introduced by Sens. J. Davis, McInnis, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: Controlled substances are divided into six schedules:

- Schedule I-** Substances that have no current medical use, lack of accepted safety, and a high potential for abuse. *Heroin, GHB, MDMA.*
- Schedule II-** Substances that have a high potential for abuse and physical dependence, and limited medical use. *Cocaine, Opium, Oxycodone.*
- Schedule III-** Substances have a potential for abuse lower than Schedules I and II, and may lead to moderate physical dependence. *Ketamine, Secobarbital, Paregoric.*
- Schedule IV-** Substances in this schedule have a low potential for abuse relative to substances in Schedule III. *Clonazepam, Xanax, Valium.*
- Schedule V-** Substances in this section have a low potential for abuse, and have an accepted medical use. *Robitussin, Lyrica.*
- Schedule VI-** Substances in this schedule have a potential for abuse and dependence lower than Schedule V. *Marijuana.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would name the act "Synthetic Opioid and Other Dangerous Drug Control Act."

Section 2 would:

- Expand the definition of "isomer¹".
- Add the term "opioid²".

Section 3 would amend Schedule I in the following ways:

- Exclude LAAM³ from the definition of "Opiates".
- Classify "Fentanyl⁴ Derivatives" as Schedule I Controlled Substances.

¹ Isomer. – Two or more compounds with the same formula but a different arrangement of atoms.

² Opioid. – An opium-like compound that affects the nervous system, and relieves pain.

³ LAAM. – A long-lasting medication similar to methadone to reduce drug cravings, and withdrawal.

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- Reorganize Schedule I by naming subcategories.
- Add twelve hallucinogenic substances to Schedule I.
- Add three systemic depressants to Schedule I.
- Add four stimulants to Schedule I.
- Elevate "Synthetic Cannabinoids"⁵ to Schedule I Controlled Substances. (Currently classified as Schedule VI).
- Describe two categories of cannabinoids: Carbazoles, and Naphthoynaphthalenes.

Section 4 would amend Schedule II by expanding the definition of opium, opiate, or opioid to include any quantity of hydrocodone⁶. (Currently small amounts are classified as Schedule III.)

Section 5 would amend Schedule III in the following ways:

- Make changes to conform to Section 4.
- Add one narcotic.
- Add four anabolic steroids.

Section 6 would amend Schedule IV in the following ways:

- Add four depressants.
- Add Tramadol⁷ as a "Narcotic Drug".

Section 7 would add the category of "Anticonvulsants"⁸, and specifically four anticonvulsants, to Schedule V.

Section 8 would repeal the law that classified synthetic cannabinoids as a Schedule VI controlled substance in order to conform to Section 3.

Section 9 would make conforming changes to the statute regarding murder proximately caused by the unlawful distribution of opium.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective December 1, 2017 and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

⁴ Fentanyl. – A fast-acting narcotic and sedative for pain relief.

⁵ Synthetic Cannabinoid. – Man-made mind-altering chemicals sprayed on dried plant material. (Sometimes marketed as "Spice", or "K2".)

⁶ Hydrocodone. – A narcotic for pain relief.

⁷ Tramadol. – A pain medication for moderate to severe pain.

⁸ Anticonvulsants. – Medication used to reduce the severity of seizures.