GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

S **1**

SENATE BILL 444

Short Title:	Controlled Substances Act - Updates.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Hanig (Primary Sponsor).	
Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate	

March 25, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO UPDATE THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 90-89(1) reads as rewritten:

"(1) Opiates. – Any of the following opiates or opioids, including the isomers, esters, ethers, salts and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, or listed in another schedule, whenever the existence of such isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation:

…

sss. AP-237.
ttt. 2-methyl AP-237.
uuu. (ortho, meta, or para)-methyl AP-237.
vvv. AP-238.
www. (ortho, meta, or para)-hydroxy 2-methyl AP-237.
xxx. 2-Naphthyl U-47700.
yyy. 1-Naphthyl U-47700.
zzz. 4-(Trifluoromethyl) U-47700.
aaaa. Methoxy U-47700.
bbbb. Furanyl UF-17.
cccc. Cyclopropyl U-47700.
dddd. Phenyl U-47700.
eeee. Ethyl U-47700.
ffff. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro-N,N-didesmethyl U-47700.
gggg. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro U-49900.
hhhh. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro-N-desmethyl U-47700.
iiii. 4-fluoro U-47931E.
jjjj. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro U-51754.
kkkk. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro Isopropyl U-47700.
llll. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro Propyl U-47700.
mmmm. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro U-50488.
nnnn. (2,3- or 3,4)-difluoro U-48800.
oooo. (2,3- or 3,4 or 2,4)-difluoro U-47700.
pppp. UF-17.
qqqq. U-47109.
rrrr. U-48520.

ssss. N,N-didesmethyl U-47700.
tttt. U-62066.
uuuu. Propyl U-47700.
vvvv. (2,3- or 3,4)-Ethylenedioxy U-51754.
wwww. 4-phenyl U-51754.
xxxx. N-desmethyl U-47700.
yyyy. (2,3- or 3,4)-Ethylenedioxy U-47700.
zzzz. N-methyl U-47931E.
aaaaa. (2,3- or 3,4)-Methylenedioxy U-47700.
bbbbb. U-69593.
ccccc. U-50488.
ddddd. U-48753E.
eeeee. U-47931E."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 90-89(1a) reads as rewritten:

"(1a) Fentanyl derivatives. – Unless specifically excepted, listed in another schedule, or contained within a pharmaceutical product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, any compound structurally derived from N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (Fentanyl) by any substitution on or replacement of the phenethyl group, any substitution on the piperidine ring, any substitution on or replacement of the propanamide group, any substitution on the anilido phenyl group, or any combination of the above unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule to include their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers. Fentanyl derivatives include, but are not limited to, the following:

…

f. N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide ~~(also known as 2-fluorofentanyl).~~(also known as ortho-fluorofentanyl).

g. N-(3-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide ~~(also known as 3-fluorofentanyl).~~(also known as meta-fluorofentanyl).

…

i. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide ~~(also known as 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl, 4-FIBF).~~(also known as 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl).

j. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-butanamide ~~(also known as 4-fluorobutyryl fentanyl, 4-FBF).~~(also known as para-fluorobutyryl fentanyl)."

SECTION 1.(c) G.S. 90-89 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(1b) Nitazene derivatives. – The N-substituted benzimidazole structural class, including any of the following derivatives, their salts, isomers, or salts of isomers unless specifically utilized as part of the manufacturing process by a commercial industry of a substance or material not intended for human ingestion or consumption, as a prescription administered under medical supervision, or for research at a recognized institution, whenever the existence of these salts, isomers, or salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation or unless specifically excepted or listed in this or another schedule, structurally derived from benzimidazole by substitution at the

1-position nitrogen with an ethylamine group, and by substitution at the 2-position carbon with a benzyl group, whether or not the compound is further modified in any of the following ways:

a. By monoalkyl or dialkyl substitution on the 1'-nitrogen of the 1-position ethylamine group, or by inclusion of the nitrogen in a cyclic structure.

b. By substitution on the 2'-methylene carbon of the benzyl group by alkyl or carboxamide groups.

c. By replacement of the 2'-methylene carbon group with an ethylbenzyl, thiophenol, or methoxybenzene group, which may be further substituted with alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, acetoxy, halide, or sulfide groups.

d. By substitution at the 2'-position, 3'-position, or 4'-position of the benzyl group, or both, with alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, acetoxy, halide, or sulfide groups.

e. By replacement of a phenyl hydrogen atom at either the 5-position or 6-position of the benzimidazole core with a nitro, or primary amine group."

SECTION 1.(d) G.S. 90-89(3)mm. reads as rewritten:

"mm. ~~5-methoxy-N-methyl-N-propyltryptamine (5-MeO-MiPT).~~5-methoxy-N-methyl-N-isopropyltryptamine (5-MeO-MiPT)."

SECTION 1.(e) G.S. 90-89(4) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:

"j. Bromazolam."

SECTION 1.(f) G.S. 90-89(5)j. reads as rewritten:

"j. Substituted cathinones. A compound, other than bupropion, that is structurally derived from 2-amino-1-phenyl-1-propanone by modification in any of the following ways: (i) by substitution in the phenyl ring to any extent with alkyl, alkoxy, alkylenedioxy, haloalkyl, or halide substituents, whether or not further substituted in the phenyl ring by one or more other univalent substituents; (ii) by substitution at the 3-position to any extent; or (iii) by substitution at the nitrogen atom with alkyl, dialkyl, benzyl, cycloalkyl, or methoxybenzyl groups or by inclusion of the nitrogen atom in a cyclic structure. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "isomer" includes the optical, positional, or geometric isomer."

SECTION 1.(g) G.S. 90-89(7) reads as rewritten:

"(7) Synthetic cannabinoids. – Any quantity of any synthetic chemical compound that (i) is a cannabinoid receptor agonist and mimics the pharmacological effect of naturally occurring substances or (ii) has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is not listed as a controlled substance in Schedules I through V, and is not an FDA-approved drug. Synthetic cannabinoids include, but are not limited to, the substances listed in sub-subdivisions a. through ~~p.~~ v. of this subdivision and any substance that contains any quantity of their salts, isomers (whether optical, positional, or geometric), homologues, and salts of isomers and homologues, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these salts, isomers, homologues, and salts of isomers and homologues is possible within the specific chemical designation. The following substances are examples of synthetic cannabinoids and are not intended to be inclusive of the substances included in this Schedule:

…

l. Indole carboxamides. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-indole-3-carboxamide or 1H-indole-2-carboxamide substituted in one or both of the following ways:

1. At the nitrogen atom of the indole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)methyl, 1-(N-methyl-3-morpholinyl)methyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, benzyl, or halo benzyl group; ~~and~~or
2. At the nitrogen of the carboxamide by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, ~~or~~ propionaldehyde ~~group;~~group, or methyl 3,3-dimethyl-butanoate group;

whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the indole ring to any extent, (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent, (iii) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the indole ring, or (iv) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, or cyclopropyl ring. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: SDB-001 and ~~STS-135.~~STS-135 and MDMB-ICA.

…

n. Indazole carboxaldehydes. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-indazole-3-carboxaldehyde or 1H-indazole-2-carboxaldehyde substituted in both of the following ways:

…

2. At the carbon of the carboxaldehyde by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group;

whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the indazole ring to any extent, (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent, (iii) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the indazole ring, or (iv) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, or cyclopropyl ring.

o. Indazole carboxamides. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-indazole-3-carboxamide or 1H-indazole-2-carboxamide substituted in one or both of the following ways:

1. At the nitrogen atom of the indazole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)methyl, 1-(N-methyl-3-morpholinyl)methyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, benzyl, or halo benzyl group; ~~and~~or
2. At the nitrogen of the carboxamide by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde ~~group;~~group, or methyl 3,3-dimethyl-butanoate group;

whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the indazole ring to any extent, (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl,

adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent, (iii) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the indazole ring, or (iv) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, or cyclopropyl ring. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: AKB-48, fluoro-AKB-48, ~~APINCACA,~~ AB-PINACA, AB-FUBINACA, ADB-FUBINACA, ~~and ADB-PINACA.~~ADB-PINACA, ADB-INACA, MDMB-INACA, MDMB-5Me-INACA, and MDMB-5Br-INACA.

…

s. Oxindoles. Any compound structurally derived from 3-hydrazonoindolin-2-one substituted in one or both of the following ways:

1. At the nitrogen atom of the oxoindole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl; or
2. At the nitrogen of the hydrazide by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group; whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the oxoindole ring to any extent or (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: BZO-POXIZID, BZO-HEXOXIZIDE, 5F-BZO-POXIZIDE.

t. Indole acetamides. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-indole-3-acetamide or 1H-indole-2-acetamide substituted in one or both of the following ways:

1. At the nitrogen atom of the indole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)methyl, 1-(N-methyl-3-morpholinyl)methyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, benzyl, or halo benzyl group; or
2. At the nitrogen of the acetamide by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group; whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the indole ring to any extent, (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent, (iii) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the indole ring, or (iv) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, or cyclopropyl ring. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: AFUBIATA, CH-PIATA, AB-CHMIATA, ADB-FUBIATA.

u. Indazole acetaldehydes. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-indazol-3-ylacetaldehyde or 1H-indazol-2-ylacetaldehyde substituted in one or both of the following ways:

1. At the nitrogen atom of the indazole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, 1-(N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)methyl,

1-(N-methyl-3-morpholinyl)methyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, benzyl, or halo benzyl group; or

2. At the nitrogen of the carboxamide by a phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group; whether or not the compound is further modified to any extent in the following ways: (i) substitution to the indazole ring to any extent, (ii) substitution to the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, cyclopropyl, or propionaldehyde group to any extent, (iii) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the indazole ring, or (iv) a nitrogen heterocyclic analog of the phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, adamantyl, or cyclopropyl ring. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: ADB-BUTINAATA, ADB-FUBINAATA.

v. Pyrazoles. Any compound structurally derived from 1H-pyrazole substituted in all of the following ways:

1. At the 1 position of the pyrazole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, or alkenyl group.
2. At the 3 position of the pyrazole ring by a halo benzyl or propionaldehyde group.
3. At the 5 position of the pyrazole ring by a halo benzyl or propionaldehyde group; whether or not the compound is further modified by a substitution to the propionaldehyde group to any extent. Substances in this class include, but are not limited to: 3,5-ADB-4en-PFUPPYCA, 5-fluoro-3,5-AB-PFUPPYCA."

SECTION 1.(h) G.S. 90-90(2)h1. reads as rewritten:

"h1. Fentanyl immediate precursor chemical, ~~4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP).~~4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperdine (ANPP)."

SECTION 1.(i) G.S. 90-91(k)11. reads as rewritten:

"11. ~~Dehydrochlormethyltestosterone,~~Dehydrochloromethyltestosterone,"

SECTION 1.(j) G.S. 90-91(k)16. reads as rewritten:

"16. ~~Mesterolene,~~Mesterolone,"

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.