



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2356

drugs; definition

Purpose

An emergency measure that adds certain substances related to substituted cathinones to the definition of dangerous drugs.

Background

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), substituted cathinones, or *bath salts*, are derivatives of cathinone, a psychoactive substance with stimulant properties that occurs naturally in the plant khat. The effects of synthetic cathinones are similar to amphetamines like ecstasy and cocaine. At least 33 states have adopted laws or departmental rules banning substances related to substituted cathinones (NCSL). On October 21, 2011, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) exercised its emergency scheduling authority to control three of the synthetic stimulants related to bath salts. That temporary action makes possessing and selling products containing the chemicals illegal in the U.S. for at least 12 months with a possible 6 month extension, while the DEA studies whether to permanently control the substances. According to the DEA, bath salts are sold at various retail outlets and over the Internet; however, the substances have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for human consumption or for medical use, nor is there oversight of the manufacturing process.

Dangerous drugs are defined in statute as any material, compound, mixture or preparation that: contains hallucinogenic substances; is a stimulant or depressant with potential for abuse; or contains anabolic steroids (A.R.S. § 13-3401). H.B. 2356 mirrors S.B. 1043, which passed the Senate on January 19, 2012.

The fiscal impact to the state General Fund is unknown; however, expanding the definition of drug offenses may increase incarceration costs.

Provisions

1. Adds certain chemicals that compose substituted cathinones to the statutory definition of dangerous drugs and the Schedule IV substances list.
2. Makes conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective on signature of the Governor, if the emergency clause is enacted.

FACT SHEET

H.B. 2356

Page 2

House Action

JUD	1/26/12	DP	9-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/9/12		54-0-5-0-1

Prepared by Senate Research

February 14, 2012

AW/ly