

SENATE BILL NO. 1235
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice)
on)
(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator DeSteph)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-33 and 18.2-248 of the Code of Virginia, relating to manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, etc., of fentanyl, heroin, or related controlled substances; penalties.

on _____)

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 18.2-33 and 18.2-248 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-33. Felony homicide defined; punishment.

A. The killing of one accidentally, contrary to the intention of the parties, while in the prosecution of some felonious act other than those specified in §§ 18.2-31 and 18.2-32, is murder of the second degree and is punishable by confinement in a state correctional facility for not less than five years nor more than ~~forty~~ 40 years.

B. A person is guilty of felony homicide under subsection A if the felonious act that resulted in the killing of one accidentally, contrary to the intention of the parties, involved the manufacture, sale, gift, or distribution of a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) to another person in violation of Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 and (i) such other person's death results from his use of the controlled substance and (ii) such controlled substance is the proximate cause of the death of such other person regardless of the time or place death occurred in relation to the commission of the underlying felony. It is not a defense to a prosecution under this subsection that the decedent contributed to his own death by his knowing or voluntary use of the controlled substance. Venue for a prosecution under this subsection shall lie in the locality where the felony violation of Article 1 of Chapter 7 occurred, where the use of the controlled substance occurred, or where death occurred.

C. However, if a person proves that he gave or distributed a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility, or state correctional facility as defined in § 53.1-1, or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient of the controlled substance to use or become

addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

§ 18.2-248. Manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance prohibited; penalties.

A. Except as authorized in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, give, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance.

B. In determining whether any person intends to manufacture, sell, give or distribute an imitation controlled substance, the court may consider, in addition to all other relevant evidence, whether any distribution or attempted distribution of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever included an exchange of or a demand for money or other property as consideration, and, if so, whether the amount of such consideration was substantially greater than the reasonable value of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever, considering the actual chemical composition of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever and, where applicable, the price at which over-the-counter substances of like chemical composition sell.

C. Except as provided in subsection C1, any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II shall upon conviction be imprisoned for not less than five nor more than 40 years and fined not more than \$500,000. Upon a second conviction of such a violation, and it is alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information that the person has been before convicted of such an offense or of a substantially similar offense in any other jurisdiction, which offense would be a felony if committed in the Commonwealth, and such prior conviction occurred before the date of the offense alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information, any such person may, in the discretion of the court or jury imposing the sentence, be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for any period not less than five years, three years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence, and he shall be fined not more than \$500,000.

When a person is convicted of a third or subsequent offense under this subsection and it is alleged in the warrant, indictment or information that he has been before convicted of two or more such offenses or of substantially similar offenses in any other jurisdiction which offenses would be felonies if committed in the Commonwealth and such prior convictions occurred before the date of the offense alleged in the warrant,

indictment, or information, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for a period of not less than 10 years, 10 years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence, and he shall be fined not more than \$500,000.

Any person who manufactures, sells, gives, distributes or possesses with the intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute the following is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and imprisonment for five years to life, five years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence:

1. 100 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;
2. 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:
 - a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;
 - b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;
 - c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or
 - d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in subdivisions ~~2a~~ a through ~~2e~~ c;
3. 250 grams or more of a mixture or substance described in ~~subdivisions 2a through 2d~~ *subdivision 2* that contain cocaine base; or
4. 10 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or 20 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers.

The mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be imposed for a violation of this subsection shall not be applicable if the court finds that:

- a. The person does not have a prior conviction for an offense listed in subsection C of § 17.1-805;
- b. The person did not use violence or credible threats of violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense or induce another participant in the offense to do so;
- c. The offense did not result in death or serious bodily injury to any person;
- d. The person was not an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the offense, and was not engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise as defined in subsection I; and
- e. Not later than the time of the sentencing hearing, the person has truthfully provided to the

Commonwealth all information and evidence the person has concerning the offense or offenses that were part of the same course of conduct or of a common scheme or plan, but the fact that the person has no relevant or useful other information to provide or that the Commonwealth already is aware of the information shall not preclude a determination by the court that the defendant has complied with this requirement.

C1. Any person who violates this section with respect to the manufacturing of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or less than 200 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not less than 10 nor more than 40 years and fined not more than \$500,000. Upon a second conviction of such a violation, any such person may, in the discretion of the court or jury imposing the sentence, be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for any period not less than 10 years, and be fined not more than \$500,000. When a person is convicted of a third or subsequent offense under this subsection and it is alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information that he has been previously convicted of two or more such offenses or of substantially similar offenses in any other jurisdiction, which offenses would be felonies if committed in the Commonwealth and such prior convictions occurred before the date of the offense alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for a period not less than 10 years, three years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence and he shall be fined not more than \$500,000.

Upon conviction, in addition to any other punishment, a person found guilty of this offense shall be ordered by the court to make restitution, as the court deems appropriate, to any innocent property owner whose property is damaged, destroyed, or otherwise rendered unusable as a result of such methamphetamine production. This restitution shall include the person's or his estate's estimated or actual expenses associated with cleanup, removal, or repair of the affected property. If the property that is damaged, destroyed, or otherwise rendered unusable as a result of such methamphetamine production is property owned in whole or in part by the person convicted, the court shall order the person to pay to the Methamphetamine Cleanup Fund authorized in § 18.2-248.04 the reasonable estimated or actual expenses associated with cleanup, removal, or repair of the affected property or, if actual or estimated expenses cannot be determined, the sum of \$10,000. The convicted person shall also pay the cost of certifying that any building that is cleaned up or repaired pursuant to this section is safe for human occupancy according to the guidelines established pursuant to § 32.1-11.7.

D. If such person proves that he gave, distributed or possessed with intent to give or distribute a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility or state correctional facility as defined in § 53.1-1 or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient or intended recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

E. If the violation of the provisions of this article consists of the filling by a pharmacist of the prescription of a person authorized under this article to issue the same, which prescription has not been received in writing by the pharmacist prior to the filling thereof, and such written prescription is in fact received by the pharmacist within one week of the time of filling the same, or if such violation consists of a request by such authorized person for the filling by a pharmacist of a prescription which has not been received in writing by the pharmacist and such prescription is, in fact, written at the time of such request and delivered to the pharmacist within one week thereof, either such offense shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor.

E1. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule III except for an anabolic steroid classified in Schedule III, constituting a violation of § 18.2-248.5, shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

E2. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule IV shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony.

E3. Any person who proves that he gave, distributed or possessed with the intent to give or distribute a controlled substance classified in Schedule III or IV, except for an anabolic steroid classified in Schedule III, constituting a violation of § 18.2-248.5, only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility or state correctional facility as defined in § 53.1-1 or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with the intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient or intended recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

F. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule V or Schedule VI or an imitation controlled substance which imitates a controlled substance classified in Schedule V or Schedule VI, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

147 G. Any person who violates this section with respect to an imitation controlled substance which imitates a
148 controlled substance classified in Schedule I, II, III, or IV shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony. In any
149 prosecution brought under this subsection, it is not a defense to a violation of this subsection that the
150 defendant believed the imitation controlled substance to actually be a controlled substance.

151 H. Any person who manufactures, sells, gives, distributes or possesses with the intent to manufacture, sell,
152 give or distribute the following:

153 1. 1.0 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

154 2. 5.0 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

155 a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and
156 derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

157 b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

158 c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

159 d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred
160 to in subdivisions a through c;

161 3. 2.5 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains cocaine
162 base;

163 4. 100 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or

164 5. 100 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or 200 grams or more
165 of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of
166 its isomers shall be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and imprisonment for
167 20 years to life, 20 years of which shall be a mandatory minimum sentence. Such mandatory minimum
168 sentence shall not be applicable if the court finds that (i) the person does not have a prior conviction for an
169 offense listed in subsection C of § 17.1-805; (ii) the person did not use violence or credible threats of
170 violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense or induce another
171 participant in the offense to do so; (iii) the offense did not result in death or serious bodily injury to any
172 person; (iv) the person was not an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the offense, and was
173 not engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise as defined in subsection I of this section; and (v) not later
174 than the time of the sentencing hearing, the person has truthfully provided to the Commonwealth all
175 information and evidence the person has concerning the offense or offenses that were part of the same course

of conduct or of a common scheme or plan, but the fact that the person has no relevant or useful other information to provide or that the Commonwealth already is aware of the information shall not preclude a determination by the court that the defendant has complied with this requirement.

H1. Any person who was the principal or one of several principal administrators, organizers or leaders of a continuing criminal enterprise shall be guilty of a felony if (i) the enterprise received at least \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 in gross receipts during any 12-month period of its existence from the manufacture, importation, or distribution of heroin or cocaine or ecgonine or methamphetamine or the derivatives, salts, isomers, or salts of isomers thereof or marijuana or (ii) the person engaged in the enterprise to manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute the following during any 12-month period of its existence:

1. At least 1.0 kilograms but less than 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

2. At least 5.0 kilograms but less than 10 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in subdivisions a through c;

3. At least 2.5 kilograms but less than 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains cocaine base;

4. At least 100 kilograms but less than 250 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or

5. At least 100 grams but less than 250 grams of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or at least 200 grams but less than 1.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers.

A conviction under this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and imprisonment for 20 years to life, 20 years of which shall be a mandatory minimum sentence.

205 H2. Any person who was the principal or one of several principal administrators, organizers or leaders of
206 a continuing criminal enterprise if (i) the enterprise received \$250,000 or more in gross receipts during any
207 12-month period of its existence from the manufacture, importation, or distribution of heroin or cocaine or
208 ecgonine or methamphetamine or the derivatives, salts, isomers, or salts of isomers thereof or marijuana or
209 (ii) the person engaged in the enterprise to manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to
210 manufacture, sell, give or distribute the following during any 12-month period of its existence:

- 211 1. At least 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;
- 212 2. At least 10 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:
 - 213 a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and
214 derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;
 - 215 b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;
 - 216 c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or
 - 217 d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred
218 to in subdivisions a through c;
- 219 3. At least 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains cocaine
220 base;
- 221 4. At least 250 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or
- 222 5. At least 250 grams of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or at least 1.0
223 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers,
224 or salts of its isomers shall be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and
225 imprisonment for life, which shall be served with no suspension in whole or in part. Such punishment shall be
226 made to run consecutively with any other sentence. However, the court may impose a mandatory minimum
227 sentence of 40 years if the court finds that the defendant substantially cooperated with law-enforcement
228 authorities.

229 I. For purposes of this section, a person is engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise if (i) he violates any
230 provision of this section, the punishment for which is a felony and either (ii) such violation is a part of a
231 continuing series of violations of this section which are undertaken by such person in concert with five or
232 more other persons with respect to whom such person occupies a position of organizer, a supervisory
233 position, or any other position of management, and from which such person obtains substantial income or

resources or (iii) such violation is committed, with respect to methamphetamine or other controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II, for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang as defined in § 18.2-46.1.

J. Except as authorized in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), any person who possesses any two or more different substances listed below with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine, methcathinone, or amphetamine is guilty of a Class 6 felony: liquefied ammonia gas, ammonium nitrate, ether, hypophosphorus acid solutions, hypophosphite salts, hydrochloric acid, iodine crystals or tincture of iodine, phenylacetone, phenylacetic acid, red phosphorus, methylamine, methyl formamide, lithium, sodium metal, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, potassium dichromate, sodium dichromate, potassium permanganate, chromium trioxide, methylbenzene, methamphetamine precursor drugs, trichloroethane, or 2-propanone.

K. *In addition to any other penalties provided in this section, the penalty for any person who violates this section with respect to a mixture or substance containing detectable amounts of heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil or the derivatives, salts, isomers, or salts of isomers thereof shall include a mandatory minimum fine as follows:*

1. A mandatory minimum fine of \$500,000 for one gram or more but less than 14 grams of such mixture or substance;

2. A mandatory minimum fine of \$750,000 for 14 grams or more but less than 28 grams of such mixture or substance; and

3. A mandatory minimum fine of \$1 million for 28 grams or more of such mixture or substance.

L. The term "methamphetamine precursor drug," when used in this article, means a drug or product containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine or any of their salts, optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is _____ for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is _____ for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.