

SENATE, No. 4045

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 14, 2025

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires controlled dangerous substances seized by law enforcement officers to be tested for presence of xylazine; requires reporting to DOH.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the testing of certain substances seized by law
2 enforcement and amending P.L.2019, c.504.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.504 (C.52:17B-246) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Attorney General shall maintain a program to
10 monitor drug activity in this State and surrounding regions. The
11 program shall provide for multi-jurisdictional sharing of drug
12 incident information among law enforcement agencies. Information
13 related to drug seizures, overdoses, criminal behavior, and health
14 care-related services shall be collected and analyzed for the purpose
15 of:

16 (1) assisting in facilitating the development of enhanced policies
17 and practices to prevent drug abuse and misuse; and

18 (2) mitigating the harm drugs inflict on communities.

19 The program shall monitor and analyze trends related to the
20 presence and content of fentanyl or xylazine in illegal substances
21 seized by law enforcement throughout the State. In order to
22 identify these trends, the Attorney General shall require controlled
23 dangerous substances seized by law enforcement officers in the
24 State to be tested for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine in
25 accordance with protocols established by the Division of State
26 Police.

27 b. The seized substances shall be tested in accordance with
28 protocols established by the Division of State Police to determine
29 whether fentanyl, xylazine, or other potentially lethal substances are
30 present in the substance and, if so, any available information related
31 to the presence and content of fentanyl or xylazine in the substance
32 shall be reported to the Attorney General in a timely manner.

33 c. The testing shall be performed using forensic laboratory
34 analysis techniques the Division of State Police determines to be
35 appropriate to evaluate whether a substance contains fentanyl or
36 xylazine.

37 d. The information received pursuant to subsection b. of this
38 section shall be compiled into a database that is accessible by all
39 law enforcement agencies throughout the State. The information
40 shall be continuously updated to reflect the most current
41 information available concerning the presence of fentanyl or
42 xylazine in illegal substances in the State. In addition to the
43 information received pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
44 database shall include, but not be limited to, any other information
45 that the Attorney General determines to be relevant to fentanyl or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 xylazine use that is received by the forensic laboratory in the
2 Division of State Police and Chief State Medical Examiner.

3 e. The information received pursuant to this section pertaining
4 to the presence of fentanyl and xylazine in illegal substances,
5 including but not limited to information related to drug seizures,
6 overdoses, and fentanyl and xylazine related deaths shall be
7 submitted from the Division of State Police to the Department of
8 Health for inclusion in the New Jersey State Assessment Data
9 System and Overdose Data Dashboard maintained by the Center for
10 Health Statistics and Informatics.

11 f. As used in this section, “xylazine” means any of the
12 following substances, including their salts, isomers, and salts of
13 isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, or salts of
14 isomers is possible with the specific chemical designation: xylazine;
15 xylazine-M (2,6-dimethylaniline); xylazine-M (N-thiourea-2,6-
16 dimethylaniline); xylazine-M (sulfone-HO-) isomer 2; xylazine-M
17 (HO-2,6-dimethylaniline isomer 1); xylazine-M (HO-2,6-
18 dimethylaniline isomer 2); xylazine-M (oxo-); xylazine-M (HO-
19 isomer 1; xylazine-M (HO-) isomer1 glucuronide; xylazine-M
20 (HO-) isomer 2; xylazine-M (HO-) isomer 2 glucuronide; xylazine-
21 M (HO-oxo-) isomer 1; xylazine-M (HO-oxo-) isomer 1
22 glucuronide; xylazine-M (HO-oxo-) isomer 2; xylazine-M (HO-
23 oxo-) isomer 2 glucuronide; xylazine-M (sulfone); xylazine-M
24 (sulfone-HO-) isomer 1; and any compound, mixture, or preparation
25 that contains any quantity of any of the substances listed in this
26 subsection.

27 (cf: P.L.2019, c.504, s.1)

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires controlled dangerous substances seized by law
35 enforcement officers to be tested for the presence of xylazine in
36 accordance with protocols established by the Division of State
37 Police. The bill requires the Division of State Police to transfer the
38 information pertaining to the presence of xylazine in controlled
39 dangerous substances to the Department of Health for inclusion in
40 the New Jersey State Assessment Data System and Overdose Data
41 Dashboard maintained by the Center for Health Statistics and
42 Informatics.

43 Under current law, the Attorney General has established a
44 program to monitor and analyze trends related to the presence and
45 content of fentanyl in illegal substances seized by law enforcement
46 throughout the State. The information is compiled in a database
47 accessible to all law enforcement agencies. Under the bill, xylazine
48 is required to be included as a dangerous substance to be monitored

S4045 GOPAL

1 and analyzed by the State Police. The bill also requires the database
2 to include any other information that the Attorney General
3 determines to be relevant to fentanyl or xylazine use that is received
4 by the forensic laboratory in the Division of State Police and Chief
5 State Medical Examiner.

6 Xylazine, which is also known by the street names “tranq,”
7 “tranq dope,” and “zombie drug,” has been approved for use as an
8 animal sedative and is commonly used in veterinary practice, but
9 has not been approved for use in humans. However, it has been
10 reported that xylazine has been increasingly detected in illegal
11 street drugs, and particularly in opioid drugs, as it can enhance and
12 prolong the euphoric effects of opioids.