# The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

	Prepa	red By: Th	e Professional Sta	aff of the Committee	e on Appropria	tions
BILL:	CS/CS/SB 150					
INTRODUCER:	Appropriations Committee; Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator Steube and others					
SUBJECT:	Controlled Substances					
DATE: April 26, 20		2017	REVISED:			
ANALYST		STAI	FF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION
. Erickson		Hrdlicka		CJ	Fav/CS	
. Brown		Cibula		JU	Fav/CS	
. McAuliffe		Hansen		AP	Fav/CS	

## Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes** 

## I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 150 addresses scheduling for controlled substances and punishment for controlled substance offenses. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides that a person 18 years of age or older commits felony murder if he or she unlawfully distributes any specified controlled substance, including a specified fentanyl-related substance, and the distribution is proven to be the proximate cause of death of the user;
- Includes in Schedule I a class of fentanyl derivatives and five substances that were originally developed for legitimate research but that have now emerged in the illicit drug market;
- Punishes unlawful possession of 10 grams or more of certain Schedule II substances, including certain fentanyl-related substances;
- Adds codeine, an isomer of hydrocodone, to a current provision punishing trafficking in hydrocodone, and adds additional phenethylamines and phencyclidines to current provisions punishing trafficking in phencyclidine and phenethylamine;
- Punishes trafficking in fentanyl, synthetic cannabinoids, and n-benzyl phenethylamines, through imposing mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines;
- Authorizes certain crime laboratory personnel to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists used to treat opioid overdoses; and
- Provides that cross-references throughout the Florida Statutes to the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act (chapter 893, Florida Statutes), or any portion thereof, include all subsequent amendments to the act.

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference (CJIC) has not yet reviewed the bill; however, the bill is substantively identical to CS/HB 477, which the CJIC estimates will have a "positive indeterminate" prison bed impact (an unquantifiable increase in prison beds). See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2017.

#### **II.** Present Situation:

#### Florida's Controlled Substance Schedules

Section 893.03, F.S., classifies controlled substances into five categories, known as schedules. These schedules regulate the manufacture, distribution, preparation, and dispensing of the substances listed in the statute. The most important factors in determining which schedule may apply to a substance are the "potential for abuse" of the substance and whether there is a currently accepted medical use for the substance. The controlled substance schedules are as follows:

- Schedule I substances (s. 893.03(1), F.S.) have a high potential for abuse and have no currently accepted medical use in the United States. This schedule includes cannabis and heroin.
- Schedule II substances (s. 893.03(2), F.S.) have a high potential for abuse and have a currently accepted but severely restricted medical use in the United States. This schedule includes cocaine, codeine, and fentanyl.
- Schedule III substances (s. 893.03(3), F.S.) have a potential for abuse less than the substances contained in Schedules I and II and have a currently accepted medical use in the United States. This schedule includes stimulants and anabolic steroids.
- Schedule IV substances (s. 893.03(4), F.S.) have a low potential for abuse relative to the substances in Schedule III and have a currently accepted medical use in the United States. This schedule includes benzodiazepines and barbiturates.
- Schedule V substances (s. 893.03(5), F.S.) have a low potential for abuse relative to the substances in Schedule IV and have a currently accepted medical use in the United States. This schedule includes mixtures that contain small quantities of opiates and codeine.

#### **Punishment of Prohibited Drug Acts**

Section 893.13, F.S., in part, punishes unlawful possession, sale, purchase, manufacture, and delivery of a controlled substance. The penalty for violating s. 893.13, F.S., depends on the act committed, the substance and quantity of the substance involved, and the location in which the violation occurred. For example, selling a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S.,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pursuant to s. 893.035(3)(a), F.S., "potential for abuse" means a substance has properties as a central nervous system stimulant or depressant or a hallucinogen that create a substantial likelihood of the substance being: (1) used in amounts that create a hazard to the user's health or the safety of the community; (2) diverted from legal channels and distributed through illegal channels; or (3) taken on the user's own initiative rather than on the basis of professional medical advice.

<sup>2</sup> See s. 893.03, F.S.

which includes many synthetic controlled substances, is a third degree felony.<sup>3</sup> However, if that substance is sold within 1,000 feet of a child care facility or secondary school, the violation is a second-degree felony.<sup>4</sup>

Drug trafficking, punished in s. 893.135, F.S., consists of knowingly selling, purchasing, manufacturing, delivering, or bringing into this state, or knowingly being in actual or constructive possession of, certain controlled substances in a statutorily-specified quantity. The statute only applies to a limited number of controlled substances. The quantity of the substance must meet a specified weight threshold. Most drug trafficking offenses are first degree felonies<sup>5</sup> and are subject to a mandatory minimum term and a mandatory fine, which is determined by the weight range applicable to the quantity of the substance involved in the trafficking.

#### Fentanyl and Related Drugs

Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance.<sup>6</sup> Some fentanyl analogs<sup>7</sup> or derivatives<sup>8</sup>, such as alfentanil,<sup>9</sup> carfentanil,<sup>10</sup> and sufentanil<sup>11</sup> are also Schedule II controlled substances.<sup>12</sup> It is a second degree felony to possess alfentanil, carfentanil, or fentanyl with the intent to sell,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Section 893.13(1)(a)2., F.S. A third-degree felony is punishable by up to 5 years in state prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Section 893.13(1)(c)2., F.S. A second-degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years in state prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. *Id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A first-degree felony is generally punishable by up to 30 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. However, when specifically provided by statute, a first-degree felony may be punished by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment. *Id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Section 893.03(2)(b)9., F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "An analog is a drug whose structure is related to that of another drug but whose chemical and biological properties may be quite different." Chemistry-Dictionary.com, <a href="http://www.chemistry-dictionary.com/definition/analog.php">http://www.chemistry-dictionary.com/definition/analog.php</a> (last visited on March 28, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> A "derivative" is "a chemical compound that may be produced from another compound of similar structure in one or more steps, as in replacement of H by an alkyl, acyl, or amino group." Drugs.com, <a href="https://www.drugs.com/dict/derivative.html">https://www.drugs.com/dict/derivative.html</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Alfentanil is "a short-acting opioid anesthetic and analgesic derivative of [fentanyl]. It produces an early peak analgesic effect and fast recovery of consciousness. Alfentanil is effective as an anesthetic during surgery, for supplementation of analgesia during surgical procedures, and as an analgesic for critically ill patients." "Alfentanil," MeSH, National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/?term=alfentanil">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/?term=alfentanil</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Carfentanil is a fentanyl derivative. "Fentanyl drug profile," European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction, <a href="http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl">http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017). The drug "is one of the most potent opioids known (also the most potent opioid used commercially)." "Carfentanil," National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <a href="https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/carfentanil#section=Top">https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/carfentanil#section=Top</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017). The drug "has a quantitative potency approximately 10,000 times that of morphine and 100 times that of fentanyl, with activity in humans starting at about 1 microgram. It is marketed … as a general anesthetic agent for large animals. Carfentanil is intended for large-animal use only as its extreme potency makes it inappropriate for use in humans. Currently sufentanil, approximately 10-20 times less potent (500 to 1000 times the efficacy of morphine per weight) than carfentanil, is the maximum strength fentanyl analog for use in humans." *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Sufentanil is a fentanyl derivative. "Fentanyl drug profile," European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction, <a href="http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl">http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017). The drug "is an opioid analgesic that is used as an adjunct in anesthesia, in balanced anesthesia, and as a primary anesthetic agent." "Sufentanil," National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, <a href="https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/41693">https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/41693</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Section 893.03(2)(b)1., 6., and 29., F.S.

manufacture, or deliver them, or to unlawfully sell, manufacture, or deliver any of these substances. <sup>13</sup>

The National Institute on Drug Abuse provides that "Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent." When prescribed by a physician, fentanyl is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or to manage pain after surgery and is administered via injection, transdermal patch, or in lozenges. Although prescription fentanyl can be misused, most overdoses and related deaths have been linked to illicitly-manufactured fentanyl, including fentanyl analogs. Illicitly-manufactured fentanyl is produced in clandestine laboratories and may be sold as a powder, spiked on blotter paper, mixed with heroin, or sold as tablets made to look like other, less potent opioids. Fentanyl and its analogs may be mixed into other drugs and sold without the customer's knowledge of the presence of fentanyl.

According to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, during 2013–2014, fentanyl submissions<sup>19</sup> increased 494 percent in Florida (from 33 to 196), concurrent with a 115 percent increase in fentanyl deaths in Florida (from 185 to 397).<sup>20</sup> Fentanyl analogs were specifically implicated in 49 drug overdose deaths in Florida between January and June 2015.<sup>21</sup> According to the 2015 Annual Report (dated September 2016) of the Florida Medical Examiners, there were 911 deaths in which fentanyl was present (206) or deemed the cause of death (705).<sup>22</sup> Further, 99 of the deaths associated with fentanyl were ones in which the deceased had only that drug in their system, while the rest were in combination with another drug.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Section 893.13(1)(a)1., F.S.

 <sup>14 &</sup>quot;DrugFacts" (revised June 2016), National Institute on Drug Abuse,
 https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl (last visited Apr. 14, 2017). "The estimated lethal dose of fentanyl in humans is 2 mg." "Fentanyl drug profile," European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction,
 http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).
 15 Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> "Increases in Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths-Florida and Ohio, 2013-2015," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (August 26, 2016), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a3.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a3.htm</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "DrugFacts" (revised June 2016), National Institute on Drug Abuse, <a href="https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl">https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> For example, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has noted that "it is likely that carfentanil is being added to mixtures of heroin and other street drugs." "Alert Issued in Ohio for Human Use of Animal Sedative Carfentanil, with Cases Also Seen in Florida" (August 23, 2016), National Institute on Drug Abuse, <a href="https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/emerging-trends-alerts">https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/emerging-trends-alerts</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> In this context, "submissions" means "drug products obtained by law enforcement that tested positive for fentanyl." *Id.*<sup>20</sup> "Increases in Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths-Florida and Ohio, 2013-2015," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (August 26, 2016), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a3.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a3.htm</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons (2015 Annual Report) (September 2016), p. 3, Florida Medical Examiners Commission, <a href="http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/MEC/Publications-and-Forms.aspx">http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/MEC/Publications-and-Forms.aspx</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>23</sup> Id. at p. 30.

## Illicit Use of Compounds Developed for Forensic and Research Applications

Compounds are often developed for legitimate forensic and research applications. However, some of these compounds later emerge in the illicit drug market. The following substances are examples of those substances:

- W-15, 4-chloro-N- [1- (2-phenylethyl) -2-piperidinylidene] -benzenesulfonamide.
- W-18, 4-chloro-N- [1-[2-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl] -2-piperidinylidene] -benzenesulfonamide.
- AH-7921, 3, 4-dichloro-N- [[(1-dimethylamino) cyclohexyl]methyl] -benzamide.
- U47700, trans-3, 4-dichloro-N- [2-(dimethylamino) cyclohexyl] -N-methyl-benzamide.
- MT-45,1-cyclohexyl-4- (1,2-diphenylethyl) -piperazine, dihydrochloride.

W-15 and W-18 are "two of a series of drugs with analgesic properties of unknown origin synthesized in Canada in 1981."<sup>24</sup> AH-7921 is an experimental opioid agonist<sup>25</sup> developed and patented by the former pharmaceutical company Allen & Hanburys. <sup>26</sup> U-47700 "is an opioid analgesic drug developed by the pharmaceutical company Upjohn in the 1970s and is structurally related to AH-7921[.]"<sup>27</sup> "MT-45 is a piperazine derivate originally synthesized by a pharmaceutical company in the 1970s."<sup>28</sup>

U-47700 is currently a Schedule I controlled substance pursuant to emergency rule<sup>29</sup> of the Florida Attorney General's Office.<sup>30</sup>

# **Emergency Treatment for Suspected Opioid Overdose**

In addition to being deadly to drug users, fentanyl-related drugs pose a dangerous threat to first responders and law enforcement officers, because a lethal dose can be accidentally inhaled or absorbed through the skin.<sup>31</sup> The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has warned laboratory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Mohr, A., Friscia, M., Papsun, D., Kacinko, S., Buzby, D., and Logan, B., "Analysis of Novel Synthetic Opioids U-47700, U-50488 and Furanyl Fentanyl by LC–MS/MS in Postmortem Casework" (2016) 40(9): 709, 716 (footnote and citation omitted), *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, <a href="https://academic.oup.com/jat/article/40/9/709/2527448/Analysis-of-Novel-Synthetic-Opioids-U-47700-U">https://academic.oup.com/jat/article/40/9/709/2527448/Analysis-of-Novel-Synthetic-Opioids-U-47700-U</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017). "Emerging evidence suggests that W-18 is not an opioid." "Novel Synthetic Opioids in Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals and other Illicit Street Drugs" (June 2016), *CCENDU Bulletin*, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, <a href="http://www.ohrdp.ca/ccendu-bulletin-novel-synthetic-opioids-in-counterfeit-pharmaceuticals-and-other-illicit-street-drugs/">http://www.ohrdp.ca/ccendu-bulletin-novel-synthetic-opioids-in-counterfeit-pharmaceuticals-and-other-illicit-street-drugs/</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Medicine Net defines the term "agonist" as a substance that acts like another substance and therefore stimulates an action, <a href="http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=7835">http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=7835</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Kjellgren, A., Jacobsson K., and Soussan C., "The Quest for Well-Being and Pleasure: Experiences of the Novel Synthetic Opioids AH-7921 and MT-45, as Reported by Anonymous Users Online" (2016) 7(4): 1 (footnote and citation omitted), *Journal of Addiction Research & Therapy*, <a href="https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/the-quest-for-wellbeing-and-pleasure-experiences-of-the-novel-syntheticopioids-ah7921-and-mt45-as-reported-by-anonymous-users-onli-2155-6105-1000287.php?aid=77568">https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/the-quest-for-wellbeing-and-pleasure-experiences-of-the-novel-syntheticopioids-ah7921-and-mt45-as-reported-by-anonymous-users-onli-2155-6105-1000287.php?aid=77568</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> See footnote 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> *Id.* (footnote and citation omitted).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Section 893.035(7), F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Notice of Emergency Rule, 2ER16-1 ("Addition of U-47700 (3,4-dichloro-N-(2-(dimethylamino)cylcohexyl]-N-methylbenzamide) [t]o Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(a), F.S.") and Certification of Department of Legal Affairs Emergency Rule Filed with the Department of State (filed September 27, 2016), Department of Legal Affairs (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> "DEA Issues Carfentanil Warning to Police and Public" (September 22, 2016), U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, <a href="https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq092216.shtml">https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq092216.shtml</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

personnel to take measures to protect themselves from accidental exposure and to immediately administer Naloxone, a drug used to treat opioid overdoses, in the event of exposure.<sup>32</sup>

Section 381.887, F.S., authorizes certain emergency responders<sup>33</sup> to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists as clinically indicated. Crime laboratory personnel are not referenced in the statute.

## Synthetic Cannabinoids, Cathinones, and Phenethylamines

Section 893.03(1)(c), F.S., lists numerous substances described as "hallucinogenic substances." Many of them appear to be synthetic cannabinoids, cathinone derivatives, and phenethylamines. "Synthetic [c]annabinoids are chemicals that act as cannabinoid receptor agonists. Chemically they are not similar to cannabinoids but ... they are cannabinoid-like in their activity."<sup>34</sup>

Cathinone is a Schedule I controlled substance.<sup>35</sup> The "molecular architecture" of cathinone "can be altered to produce a series of different compounds which are closely structurally related to cathinone. Together these are known as the 'cathinones' or 'cathinone derivatives."<sup>36</sup>

"Phenethylamines" is a broad category of "psychoactive substances." Probably the most well-known phenethylamine is 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), which is often referred to by the street name "Ecstasy." Phenethylamines include "the '2C' series of hallucinogenic phenethylamines" (referring to "the chemical structure consisting of two carbon atoms between the phenyl and amine moieties"). A new group of 2C compounds, referred to as the "N-methoxybenzyl-substituted phenethylamines (NBOMe)" have emerged on the illicit drug market. These compounds were "[i]nitially synthesized for research purposes," and "are thought to be more potent than some of the conventional hallucinogens."

#### Felony Murder by Drug Distribution

Section 782.04(1)(a)3., F.S., provides that if a person 18 years of age or older unlawfully distributes certain controlled substances that are later proven to be the proximate cause of the

<sup>32</sup> I.d

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Emergency responders include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians. Section 381.887(4), F.S.

 <sup>34 &</sup>quot;Synthetic Cannabinoids Drug Information," Redwood Toxicology Laboratory,
 <a href="https://www.redwoodtoxicology.com/resources/drug\_info/synthetic\_cannabinoids">https://www.redwoodtoxicology.com/resources/drug\_info/synthetic\_cannabinoids</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).
 35 Section 893.03(1)(c)8. F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Consideration of the cathinones (March 2010), p. 6, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, United Kingdom, <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/119173/acmd-cathinodes-report-2010.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/119173/acmd-cathinodes-report-2010.pdf</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Sanders B., Lankenau S., Bloom J., and Hathazi D., "'Research chemicals': Tryptamine and Phenethylamine Use Among High Risk Youth" (2008) 43(3-4): 389, *Substance Use & Misuse*, <a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2536767/">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2536767/</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "NBOMe Drugs," *CALL US* ... (official newsletter) (Spring 2015) 13(2), California Poison Control System, <a href="http://www.calpoison.org/hcp/2015/callusvol13no2.htm">http://www.calpoison.org/hcp/2015/callusvol13no2.htm</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>39</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> *Id*.

death of a drug user, the distributer commits murder in the first degree, a capital felony.<sup>41</sup> The controlled substances currently included in this subparagraph are:

- A substance controlled under s. 893.03(1), F.S.;
- Cocaine;
- Opium or any synthetic or natural salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium; and
- Methadone.

Under s. 782.04(1)(a)3., F.S., a defendant does not need to intend an act of homicide, have knowledge of a drug overdose, or be present when it occurs. In order to be guilty of this offense, the defendant need only intend to unlawfully distribute one of the prohibited drugs that results in a death caused by the drug.<sup>42</sup>

# III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill, which takes effect October 1, 2017, addresses scheduling for controlled substances and punishment for controlled substance offenses. A full description of the provisions of the bill is provided below.

## **Emergency Treatment for Suspected Opioid Overdose (Section 1)**

Section 1 amends s. 381.887, F.S., authorize certain crime laboratory personnel to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists as clinically indicated. These crime laboratory personnel include, but are not limited to:

- Analysts;
- Evidence intake personnel; and
- Their supervisors.

Crime laboratory personnel will be authorized to administer the medication without a prescription, allowing them to respond in the event of accidental exposure in the course of their job performance.

#### Felony Murder by Drug Distribution (Section 2)

Section 2 amends s. 782.04(1)(a)3., F.S., to add four substances to the offense of felony murder by drug distribution. As a result of this change, a person 18 years of age or older commits felony murder if he or she unlawfully distributes any of the following substances and the distribution of the substance is proven to be the proximate cause of the death of the user of the substance:

- Alfentanil:
- Carfentanil;
- Fentanyl;
- Sufentanil; or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> A capital felony is generally punishable by life imprisonment or a death sentence as provided in s. 921.141, F.S. "First-degree murder by drug distribution has been a recognized offense since 1972. *See* ch. 76-141, § 1, Laws of Fla.; ch. 72-724, § 3, Laws of Fla." *Pena v. State*, 829 So. 2d 289, 291 (Fla. 2d 2002), approved *Pena v. State*, 901 So. 2d 781 (Fla. 2005), rehearing denied *Pena v. State*, 2005 Fla. LEXIS 994 (Fla. Apr. 25, 2005).

<sup>42</sup> Pena v. State, 829 So. 2d at 294.

• A controlled substance analog, as described in s. 893.0356, F.S., 43 of any described substance (or a substance currently listed this subparagraph), 44 and mixtures containing any of those substances.

# Cross-References to the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act (Section 3)

Section 3 creates s. 893.015, F.S., to specify that the purpose of ch. 893, F.S., is to comprehensively address drug abuse prevention and control in this state, and, as such, unless expressly provided otherwise, a specific reference to ch. 893, F.S., or any section thereof incorporates all subsequent amendments to ch. 893, F.S., or any section thereof.<sup>45</sup>

## **Scheduling of Controlled Substances (Section 4)**

Section 4 amends s. 893.03(1)(a), F.S., to add fentanyl derivatives to Schedule I, including:

- A general class by chemical structure (a 4-anilidopiperidine structure or "core") and a description of chemical substitutions that can be made to the structure to remain an illicit member of the structure family;<sup>46</sup>
- Twenty-three substances specifically identified as fentanyl derivatives; and
- An exclusion for alfentanil, carfentanil, fentanyl, and sufentanil so as to not alter their current placement in Schedule II.

Section 4 amends s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S., to add five new substances to Schedule I. These substances, which have emerged in the illicit drug market, were originally developed for forensic and research applications:

- W-15, 4-chloro-N- [1- (2-phenylethyl) -2-piperidinylidene] -benzenesulfonamide;
- W-18, 4-chloro-N- [1- [2-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl] -2-piperidinylidene] -benzenesulfonamide;
- AH-7921, 3, 4-dichloro-N-[[1-(dimethylamino) cyclohexyl] methyl] -benzamide;
- U47700, trans-3, 4-dichloro-N- [2-(dimethylamino) cyclohexyl] -N-methyl-benzamide; and
- MT-45, 1-cyclohexyl-4- (1, 2-diphenylethyl) -piperazine, dihydrochloride.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> A "controlled substance analog" is a substance which, due to its chemical structure and potential for abuse, if the substance: (1) is substantially similar to that of a Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substance; and (2) has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system or is represented or intended to have a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system substantially similar to or greater than that of a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II. Section 893.0356(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Those substances are: a substance controlled under s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S.; cocaine; opium or any synthetic or natural salt, compound, or derivative, or preparation of opium; and methadone.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> "Legislative enactments frequently incorporate portions of the Florida Statutes by reference. A cross-reference to a general body of law (without reference to a specific statute) incorporates the referenced law and any subsequent amendments to or repeal of the referenced law." Preface to the official 2016 Florida Statutes, p. viii (case citations omitted). "In contrast, as a general rule, a cross-reference to a specific statute incorporates only the language of the referenced statute as it existed at that time, unaffected by any subsequent amendments to or repeal of the incorporated statute." *Id.* To avoid the necessity of reenacting specific references to sections within certain chapters of law, the Legislature has codified provisions that allow for all specific references to sections of law within certain chapters to automatically incorporate all subsequent amendments. Such chapters of law include ch. 435, F.S. ("Employment Screening") and ch. 938, F.S. ("Court Costs."). *See* ss. 435.01 and 938.31, F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> For example "[w]ith or without substitution of the piperidine ring for a pyrrolidine ring, perhydroazepine ring, or azepine ring."

## **Unlawful Drug Acts Involving Certain Schedule II Controlled Substances (Section 5)**

Section 5 amends s. 893.13(6)(c), F.S., which currently provides that it is a first degree felony to possess more than 10 grams of certain Schedule I controlled substances, to include certain Schedule II substances (substances listed in s. 893.03(2)(b), F.S., which include fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives).

## **Trafficking in Codeine (Section 6)**

Section 6 amends s. 893.135(1)(c)2., F.S., which currently punishes "trafficking in hydrocodone," to add a specific scheduling reference for hydrocodone and to:

- Add codeine,<sup>47</sup> a Schedule II substance<sup>48</sup> and an isomer<sup>49</sup> of hydrocodone,<sup>50</sup> to the controlled substances punishable under this subparagraph; and
- Remove "derivative, isomer, or salt of an isomer" related to hydrocodone from those punishable under this subparagraph.<sup>51</sup>

By adding codeine to the trafficking in hydrocodone provision, codeine becomes subject to current penalties for trafficking in hydrocodone. Currently, trafficking in 14 grams or more of hydrocodone is generally a first degree felony and is subject to the following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 14 grams or more, but less than 28 grams;
- A 7-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 28 grams or more, but less than 50 grams;
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$500,000, if the quantity involved is 50 grams or more, but less than 200 grams; and
- A 25-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$750,000, if the quantity involved is 200 grams or more, but less than 30 kilograms.<sup>52</sup>

Further, trafficking in 30 kilograms or more of hydrocodone is "trafficking in illegal drugs," a first degree felony punishable by life imprisonment.<sup>53</sup> However, a person commits the capital

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Codeine is an opioid, typically prescribed as a pain reliever and cough suppressant, which has a high potential for addiction. "The Effects of Codeine Use," DrugAbuse.com, <a href="http://drugabuse.com/library/the-effects-of-codeine-use/">http://drugabuse.com/library/the-effects-of-codeine-use/</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Section 893.03(2)(a)1.g., F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> An isomer is "one of two or more compounds, radicals, or ions that contain the same number of atoms of the same elements but differ in structural arrangement and properties." Merriam-Webster (online dictionary), <a href="https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/isomer">https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/isomer</a> (last visited Apr. 14, 2017).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Email from Michelle DePaola, Chemistry Technical Leader, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, to staff of the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (February 23, 2017) (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> *Id.* This language is removed because codeine is the only known isomer of hydrocodone and is specifically scheduled in s. 893.03(2)(a)1.g., F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Section 893.135(1)(c)2.a.-d., F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Section 893.135(1)(c)4., F.S.

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felony<sup>54</sup> of "trafficking in illegal drugs," which is also punishable by a mandatory fine of \$500,000, if:

- The court determines that, in addition to committing the act:
  - The person intentionally killed an individual or counseled, commanded, induced, procured, or caused the intentional killing of an individual and such killing was the result; or
  - The person's conduct in committing that act led to a natural, though not inevitable, lethal result.<sup>55</sup>
- A person knowingly brings into Florida 60 kilograms or more of hydrocodone (or any another specified substance), knowing that the probable result of such importation would be the death of any person.<sup>56</sup>

## **Trafficking in Oxycodone (Section 6)**

Section 6 amends s. 893.135(1)(c)3., F.S., which currently punishes "trafficking in oxycodone," to add a specific scheduling reference for oxycodone and to remove the words "derivative, isomer, or salt of an isomer," which currently appear in this subparagraph, because there have not been any drugs identified as a derivative, isomer, or salt of an isomer of oxycodone.<sup>57</sup>

## **Trafficking in Fentanyl (Section 6)**

Section 6 creates s. 893.135(1)(c)4., F.S., which punishes "trafficking in fentanyl." Trafficking in fentanyl, a first degree felony, is knowingly selling, purchasing, manufacturing, delivering, or bringing into the state, or knowingly being in actual or constructive possession of, 4 grams or more of:

- Alfentanil;
- Carfentanil;
- Fentanyl;
- Sufentanil:
- A fentanyl derivative as described in s. 893.03(1)(a)62., F.S. (added by Section 1 of the bill);
- A controlled substance analog, as described in s. 893.0356, F.S., of any described substance;
   or
- A mixture containing any described substance.

This offense includes mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines, which are based on the quantity involved in the trafficking:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 4 grams or more, but less than 14 grams;
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 14 grams or more, but less than 28 grams; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> A capital drug trafficking felony is punishable by life imprisonment or a death sentence as provided in s. 921.142, F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Section 893.135(1)(c)4., F.S. ("trafficking in illegal drugs").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Section 893.135(1)(c)5., F.S. ("capital importation of illegal drugs").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Email from Michelle DePaola, Chemistry Technical Leader, Florida Department of Law Enforcement to staff of the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (February 23, 2017) (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

• A 25-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$500,000, if the quantity involved is 28 grams or more.

## **Trafficking in Phencyclidine (Section 6)**

Section 6 amends s. 893.135(1)(d), F.S., which currently punishes "trafficking in phencyclidine," to add a specific scheduling reference for phencyclidine and to add the following substances to those currently punishable under this paragraph:

- A substance identified as a "substituted phenylcyclohexylamine" in s. 893.03(1)(c)195., F.S.:<sup>58</sup>
- Five analogs of phencyclidine described in s. 893(1)(c)13., 32., 38., 103., and 146., F.S.; and
- A mixture containing any described substance.

By adding these substances to the trafficking in phencyclidine provision, these substances become subject to current penalties for trafficking in phencyclidine. Currently, trafficking in 28 grams or more of phencyclidine is generally a first degree felony and is subject to the following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 28 grams or more, but less than 200 grams;
- A 7-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 200 grams or more, but less than 400 grams; and
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$250,000, if the quantity involved is 400 grams or more.<sup>59</sup>

Further, a person commits a capital felony, which is also punishable by a mandatory fine of \$250,000, if the person knowingly brings into Florida 800 grams or more of phencyclidine, knowing that the probable result of such importation would be the death of any person. <sup>60</sup>

#### **Trafficking in Phenethylamines (Section 6)**

Section 6 amends s. 893.135(1)(k), F.S., which currently punishes "trafficking in phenethylamines." This paragraph currently lists a number of phenethylamines described in s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S. The bill removes these listed substances and refers to them by their specific scheduling reference in s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S. The bill also adds the following substances:

- A substance described in s. 893.03(1)(c)21., 43.-45., 58., 72.-80., 81.-86., 90.-102., 104.-108., 110.-113., 143.-145., 148.-150., 160.-163., or 187.-189., F.S., which include phenethylamines and cathinones;
- A substituted cathinone described in s. 893.03(1)(c)191., F.S.;
- A substituted phenethylamine described in s. 893.03(1)(c)192., F.S.; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Phenylcyclohexylamine is a relative of phencyclidine. The term "substituted" is a general term that means a portion of the chemical structure is removed and replaced with a different chemical structure. There are many permutations. The term "substituted phenylcyclohexylamine" can have many different substitutions but the base structure is that of phenylcyclohexylamine. E-mail from staff of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to staff of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice (March 28, 2017) (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Section 893.13(1)(d)1.a.-c., F.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Section 893.13(1)(d)2., F.S.

• A mixture containing any described substance or containing the salts, isomers, esters, or ethers, and salts of isomers, esters, or ethers of any described substance.

By adding these substances to the trafficking in phenethylamines provision, these substances become subject to current penalties for trafficking in phenethylamines. Trafficking in 10 grams or more of any listed substance is generally a first degree felony and is subject to the following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 10 grams or more, but less than 200 grams.
- A 7-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 200 grams or more, but less than 400 grams.
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$250,000, if the quantity involved is 400 grams or more.<sup>61</sup>

Further, a person commits a capital felony, which is also punishable by a mandatory fine of \$250,000, if the person knowingly manufactures or brings into Florida 30 kilograms or more of any previously-described substance, knowing that the probable result of such manufacture or importation would be the death of any person.<sup>62</sup>

## **Trafficking in Synthetic Cannabinoids (Section 6)**

Section 6 creates s. 893.135(1)(m), F.S., which punishes "trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids." Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids, which is a first degree felony, is knowingly selling, purchasing, manufacturing, delivering, or bringing into Florida, or knowingly being in actual or constructive possession of, 280 grams or more of:

- A substance described in s. 893.03(1)(c)30., 46.-50., 114.-142., 151.-156., 166.-173., or 176.-186., F.S. (synthetic cannabinoids);
- A synthetic cannabinoid described in s. 893.03(1)(c)190., F.S.; or
- A mixture containing any described substance.

This offense includes mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines, which are based on the quantity involved in the trafficking:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 280 grams or more, but less than 500 grams;
- A 7-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 500 grams or more, but less than 1 kilogram;
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$200,000, if the quantity involved is 1 kilogram or more, but less than 30 kilograms; and
- A 25-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$750,000, if the quantity involved is 30 kilograms or more.

<sup>61</sup> Section 893.135(1)(k)2., F.S

<sup>62</sup> Section 893.135(1)(k)3., F.S

### **Trafficking in N-benzyl Phenethylamines (Section 6)**

Section 6 creates s. 893.135(1)(n), F.S., which punishes "trafficking in n-benzyl phenethylamines." Trafficking in n-benzyl phenethylamines, which is a first degree felony, is knowingly selling, purchasing, manufacturing, delivering, or bringing into Florida, or knowingly being in actual or constructive possession of, 14 grams or more of:

- A substance described in s. 893.03(1)(c)164., 174., or 175., F.S. (n-benzyl phenethylamines);
- A n-benzyl phenethylamine compound, as described in s. 893.03(1)(c)193., F.S.; or
- A mixture containing any described substance.

This offense includes mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines, which are based on the quantity involved in the trafficking:

- A 3-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$50,000, if the quantity involved is 14 grams or more, but less than 100 grams;
- A 7-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$100,000, if the quantity involved is 100 grams or more, but less than 200 grams; and
- A 15-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and a mandatory fine of \$500,000, if the quantity involved is 200 grams or more.

Further, a person commits a capital felony, which is also punishable by a mandatory fine of \$500,000, if the person knowingly manufactures or brings into Florida 400 grams or more of a n-benzyl phenethylamine compound, knowing that the probable result of such importation would be the death of any person.

## **Ranking Trafficking Offenses (Section 7)**

Section 7 amends s. 921.0022, F.S., the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code, to rank trafficking offenses that are created by the bill (described below).

The following trafficking offenses are ranked in Level 7:

- Trafficking in fentanyl (4 grams or more, but less than 14 grams);
- Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids (280 grams or more, but less than 500 grams);
- Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids (500 grams or more, but less than 1,000 grams); and
- Trafficking in n-benzyl phenethylamines, (14 grams or more, but less than 100 grams).

The following trafficking offenses are ranked in Level 8:

- Trafficking in fentanyl (14 grams or more, but less than 28 grams);
- Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids (1,000 grams or more, but less than 30 kilograms); and
- Trafficking in n-benzyl phenethylamines (100 grams or more, but less than 200 grams).

The following trafficking offenses are ranked in Level 9:

- Trafficking in fentanyl (28 grams or more);
- Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids (30 kilograms or more); and
- Trafficking in n-benzyl phenethylamines (200 grams or more).

The bill also makes technical corrections to language describing some current trafficking offenses ranked in the chart.

## **Reenactments (Sections 8 to 18)**

Sections 8 to 18 reenact, respectively, ss. 39.806, 63.089, 95.11, 775.082, 775.0823, 921.16, 948.06, 948.062, 985.265, 1012.315, and 1012.467, F.S., for the purpose of incorporating amendments made by the bill to various statutes.

#### **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect October 1, 2017.

#### IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

## V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference (CJIC) has not reviewed the provisions of the bill involving felony murder by drug distribution (Section 2), controlled substances scheduling (Section 4), and controlled substance offenses (Sections 5 to 7). However, those provisions are identical to provisions in CS/HB 477, which the CJIC estimates will have a "positive indeterminate" prison bed impact (an unquantifiable increase in prison beds). 63

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> E-mail, dated March 28, 2017, to staff of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice from staff of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (on file with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

One person was charged and sentenced to prison for drug-related first degree murder (sentence length of 24 months). In FY 2015-2016, one person was arrested for selling fentanyl, and two people received a conviction/adjudication withheld. DOC does not track the number of admissions to prison for fentanyl, so that population is not known. Per the FDLE, citing the Florida Medical Examiners' 2015 Annual Report, <sup>64</sup> there were 911 deaths in which fentanyl was present or deemed the cause of death. Further, 99 of the deaths associated with fentanyl only had that in their system, while the rest were in combination with another drug.

In FY 2015-2016, there were 44<sup>65</sup> offenders sentenced for trafficking in hydrocodone and oxycodone, and 34 were sentenced to prison (mean sentence length of 70.5 months and an incarceration rate of 77.3 percent). However, the changes in the bill should not affect these offenses.

In FY 2015-2016, there were 487 offenders sentenced for trafficking offenses similar to fentanyl (heroin included) between 4 and 14 grams. There were 363 sentenced to prison (mean sentence length of 62.1 months and an incarceration rate of 74.6 percent). There were 126 offenders sentenced for trafficking between 14 and 28 grams, and 102 of these offenders were sentenced to prison (mean sentence length of 94.6 months and an incarceration rate of 81.0 percent). There were 81 offenders sentenced for trafficking between 28 grams and 30 kilograms, and 64 of these offenders were sentenced to prison (mean sentence length of 144.5 months and an incarceration rate of 79.0 percent). No offenders were sentenced for trafficking more than 30 kilograms.

In FY 2015-2016, there were two offenders sentenced for trafficking in phencyclidine between 28 and 200 grams, and both offenders received a prison sentence (mean sentence length of 96.0 months and an incarceration rate of 100 percent). There was one offender sentenced for trafficking between 400 and 800 grams, but that person did not receive a prison sentence.

The only other current trafficking offenses that exist out of s. 893.03(1)(c), F.S., are MDMA and phenethylamines, both of them combined in the DOC's data. Per the DOC, in FY 2015-2016, there were 41 offenders sentenced for trafficking between 10 and 200 grams of these drugs. There were 26 sentenced to prison (mean sentence length of 45.6 months and an incarceration rate of 63.4 percent). There were two offenders sentenced for trafficking between 200 and 400 grams of these drugs, and none of those offenders were sentenced to prison. There was also one offender sentenced for trafficking in over 400 grams of these drugs in FY 2015-2016, and that offender was sentenced to prison

All information in this section of the analysis regarding CJIC estimates of provisions of the bill addressing felony murder by drug distribution, controlled substance scheduling, controlled substance offenses, and departures from mandatory minimum sentences for drug trafficking offenses is from this source.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> *Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons* (2015 Annual Report) (September 2016), p. 3, Florida Medical Examiners Commission, *available at* <a href="http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/MEC/Publications-and-Forms.aspx">http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/MEC/Publications-and-Forms.aspx</a> (last visited on April 14, 2017). <sup>65</sup> The abbreviation "adj." means "adjusted." The abbreviation "unadj." means "unadjusted." Sentencing data from the DOC is incomplete, which means that the numbers the EDR receives are potentially lower than what the actual numbers are. The EDR adjusts these numbers by the percentage of scoresheets received for the applicable fiscal year.

(sentence length of 84.0 months and incarceration rate of 100 percent). No offenders were sentenced above 30 kilograms.

#### VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

#### VII. Related Issues:

None.

#### VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 381.887, 782.04, 893.03, 893.13, 893.135, and 921.0022.

This bill creates section 893.015 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill reenacts sections 39.806, 63.089, 95.11, 775.082, 775.0823, 921.16, 948.06, 948.062, 985.265, 1012.315, and 1012.467, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of incorporating amendments made by the bill to various statutes.

#### IX. Additional Information:

## A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

#### CS/CS/CS by Appropriations on April 25, 2017:

The committee substitute removes provisions from the bill that authorize departure from drug trafficking mandatory minimum sentencing, authorize mitigation of a Criminal Punishment Code sentence based on a defendant's substance abuse and amenability to treatment, require prison diversion for certain drug possession offenders and nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems, and reenact statutes that cross-reference statutes amended by the removed provisions.

#### CS/CS by Judiciary on April 19, 2017:

The committee substitute corrects a technical deficiency by removing the date for which a provision on mitigating circumstances for nonviolent felony offenders will apply to conform to another change to the bill by a prior committee.

### CS by Criminal Justice on April 3, 2017:

The committee substitute:

• Provides that a person 18 years of age or older commits felony murder if he or she unlawfully distributes any specified controlled substance, including a specified fentanyl-related substance, and the distribution is proven to be the proximate cause of the death of the user of the substance;

• Includes in Schedule I a class of fentanyl derivatives and five substances that were originally developed for legitimate research but that have now emerged in the illicit drug market;

- Punishes unlawful possession of 10 grams or more of certain Schedule II substances, including certain fentanyl-related substances;
- Adds codeine, an isomer of hydrocodone, to a current provision punishing trafficking in hydrocodone, and adds additional phenethylamines and phencyclidines to current provisions punishing trafficking in phencyclidine and phenethylamine;
- Revises the new offense of trafficking in fentanyl;
- Punishes trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids, and n-benzyl phenethylamines, including mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines;
- Authorizes a court to depart from a mandatory minimum sentence for drug trafficking
  after evaluating the defendant's crime, history, character, and chances for successful
  rehabilitation, if the court finds compelling reasons on the record that the mandatory
  minimum sentence is not necessary to protect the public;
- Ranks new offenses for trafficking in fentanyl, synthetic cannabinoids, and n-benzyl phenethylamines in the Code offense severity ranking chart;
- Removes a new offense of committing a drug act in a dwelling;
- Removes the ranking of a LSD trafficking offense in the Code offense severity ranking chart;
- Authorizes certain crime laboratory personnel to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists used to treat opioid overdoses;
- Provides that cross-references throughout the Florida Statutes to the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act (ch. 893, F.S.), or any portion thereof, include all subsequent amendments to the act;
- Requires that certain offenders convicted of simple possession of a controlled substance receive a nonstate prison sanction unless such sentence could present a danger to the public;
- Restores a circumstance for mitigating (reducing) a sentence based on substance abuse or addiction and amenability to treatment; and
- Requires diversion through drug court, residential drug treatment, or drug offender
  probation for certain nonviolent felony offenders who are amenable to substance
  abuse treatment.

#### B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.