

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: SB 1448

INTRODUCER: Senator Smith

SUBJECT: Controlled Substances

DATE: March 15, 2013

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Davlantes	Stovall	HP	Pre-meeting
2.			CJ	
3.			ACJ	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

SB 1448 adds several substances to the list of anabolic steroids which are in Schedule III of the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act.¹ The bill also re-enacts parts of ss. 893.13 and 921.0022, F.S., to incorporate the addition of these substances to Schedule III.

The bill provides an effective date of October 1, 2013.

The bill amends s. 893.03(3)(d), F.S., and reenacts ss. 893.13(1) - (6) and s. 921.0022(3)(b) - (e), F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Controlled Substances

“Controlled substance” means any substance named or described in Schedules I-V of s. 839.03, F.S.² Drug schedules are specified by the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 21 C.F.R. ss. 1308.11-15 and in s. 893.03, F.S.

Schedule I controlled substances currently have no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and therefore may not be prescribed, administered, or dispensed for medical use. These substances have a high potential for abuse and include heroin, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and marijuana. Schedule II controlled substances have a high potential for abuse, which

¹ This Act is found in ch. 893, F.S.

² Section 893.02(4), F.S.

may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence, including morphine and its derivatives, amphetamines, cocaine, and pentobarbital. Schedule III controlled substances have lower abuse potential than Schedule II substances but may still cause psychological or physical dependence. Schedule III substances include products containing less than 15 milligrams (mg) of hydrocodone (such as Vicodin) or less than 90 mg of codeine per dose (such as Tylenol #3), ketamine, and anabolic steroids. Schedule IV substances have a low potential for abuse and include propoxyphene (Darvocet), alprazolam (Xanax), and lorazepam (Ativan). Schedule V controlled substances have an extremely low potential for abuse and primarily consist of preparations containing limited quantities of certain narcotics, such as cough syrup.³

Anabolic Steroid Abuse

An anabolic steroid is any drug or hormonal substance, chemically and pharmacologically related to testosterone, other than estrogens, progestins, and corticosteroids, that promotes muscle growth.⁴ Anabolic steroids have both legitimate medical uses, such as treating delayed puberty and certain hormonal genetic disorders, and a plethora of illegitimate uses, such as building muscle bulk among athletes or bodybuilders.

Illegally obtained anabolic steroids are usually given at doses 10 to 100 times higher than their medically-indicated doses and may be administered as pills, injections, or skin creams. Steroid abusers often take two different types of steroids at once or may cycle between taking no drug and high doses of a drug over weeks to months.

Anabolic steroids can have serious and permanent effects if taken for extended periods. In addition to building bone density and muscle bulk, steroids can:⁵

- Drastically reduce sperm count;
- Shrink the testicles;
- Cause infertility;
- Enlarge breast size in men and decrease it in women;
- Increase body hair in women;
- Make skin rough in women;
- Enlarges the clitoris;
- Deepens the voice of women;
- Halt bone growth in adolescents;
- Cause heart attacks, even in young and healthy people;
- Cause strokes, even in young and healthy people;
- Elevate blood pressure;
- Cause liver disease and liver cancer;
- Interfere with normal cholesterol levels;
- Cause acne;

³ DEA, Office of Diversion Control, *Controlled Substance Schedules*, available at: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/#define> (last visited on March 15, 2013).

⁴ Section 893.03(3)(d)1., F.S.

⁵ WebMD, *Anabolic Steroid Abuse*, available at: <http://men.webmd.com/guide/anabolic-steroid-abuse-topic-overview>. (last visited on March 15, 2013).

- Cause balding; and
- Cause psychiatric problems.

Once someone is addicted to steroids, he or she will also need increasing amounts of the drug to achieve the same effect and will experience withdrawal symptoms.⁶

Anabolic steroids are already considered Schedule III by the state and can only be legally administered with a prescription.⁷

Specific Drugs Introduced in the Bill

hCG

Human chorionic gonadotropin, or hCG, is normally produced by the placenta to help maintain progesterone levels in the early stages of pregnancy. It can also be administered as injections to treat fertility problems in women or certain puberty problems in men.⁸ Among anabolic steroid abusers, hCG is used to counteract the reduction in testosterone levels caused by steroids. The hCG has experienced recent popularity as a weight loss drug, although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has prohibited its sale as a homeopathic weight loss medication.⁹

HGH and Derivatives

Human growth hormone (HGH), also known as somatotropin, is normally produced by the pituitary gland in the brain and spurs growth in children and in adolescents. The HGH also helps regulate many other functions related to homeostasis. Its medical indications include treatment of poor growth in children, pituitary dysfunction, and muscle wasting caused by HIV/AIDS. It is also frequently abused for performance enhancement or anti-aging purposes.¹⁰ Somatotropin and tesamorelin are synthetic versions of HGH.^{11,12}

Growth hormone releasing factor (GHRH) stimulates the body to produce more HGH. The GHRH is also known as growth hormone releasing factor (GHRF) or sermorelin.¹³ Growth hormone-releasing hexapeptide (GHRP-6) and CJC-1295 are artificially-made hormones, which also increase HGH levels.^{14,15}

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Section 893.03(3), F.S.

⁸ WebMD, *Drugs & Medications- HCG*, available at: <http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-11192-HCG.aspx?drugid=11192&drugname=HCG> (last visited on March 15, 2013).

⁹ FDA, *hCG Diet Products are Illegal*, available at: <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm281333.htm> (last visited on March 15, 2013).

¹⁰ WebMD, *Human Growth Hormone*, available at: <http://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/human-growth-hormone-hgh> (last visited on March 15, 2013).

¹¹ FDA, *Somatotropin Information*, available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm237839.htm> (last visited on March 15, 2013).

¹² Spooner L. Tesamorelin: A growth hormone-releasing factor analogue for HIV-associated lipodystrophy. *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*. 2012;46(2):240-247.

¹³ Entrez Gene, *GHRH Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone*, available at:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene?cmd=Retrieve&dopt=full_report&list_uids=2691 (last visited on March 15, 2013).

¹⁴ Locatelli V, et al. Growth hormone-releasing hexapeptide is a potent stimulator of growth hormone gene expression and release in the growth hormone-releasing hormone-deprived infant rat. *Pediatr Res*. 1994 Aug;36(2):169-74.

Penalties Related to Sale or Use of Schedule III Drugs

It is unlawful for any unauthorized person¹⁶ to sell, manufacture, deliver, or possess with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver any controlled substance. Such misuse of a Schedule III drug constitutes a third-degree felony.¹⁷ Such an act is considered a second-degree felony if it occurs within 1000 feet of:

- A child care facility as defined in s. 402.302, F.S.;
- An elementary, middle, or secondary schools between the hours of 6 a.m. and 12 midnight;
- A recreational facility;^{18,19}
- A college, university, or other postsecondary institution;²⁰
- A place of worship;
- A convenience business as defined in s. 812.171, F.S.;²¹
- A public housing facility;²² or
- As assisted living facility.²³

Anyone who purchases or possesses with the intent to purchase a Schedule III controlled substance commits a third-degree felony.²⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 893.03(3)(d), F.S., to expand the list of anabolic steroids that are Schedule III controlled substances in Florida. hCG, GHRF, GHRH, GHRP-6, HGH, sermorelin, somatropin, and tesamorelin are added to the list.

Sections 2 and 3 reenact, respectively, s. 893.13(1) - (6)²⁵ and 921.0022(3)(b) – (e),²⁶ F.S., to incorporate the amendments made to s. 893.03, F.S., in Section 1 of the bill.

Section 4 provides an effective date of October 1, 2013.

¹⁵ Henninje J, et al. Identification of CJC-1295, a growth-hormone-releasing peptide, in an unknown pharmaceutical preparation. *Drug Test Anal.* 2010 Nov-Dec;2(11-12):647-50.

¹⁶ Chapters 893 and 499, F.S., provide exceptions for those allowed to possess scheduled drugs, such as for medical or research purposes.

¹⁷ Section 893.13(1)(a)2., F.S.

¹⁸ Per s. 893.13(1)(c), F.S., recreational facilities include real property comprising a state, county, or municipal park; facilities operated by nonprofit, community-based organizations for the provision of recreational, social, or educational services to the public (“community centers”); or publicly-owned recreational facilities.

¹⁹ Section 893.13(1)(c)2., F.S.

²⁰ Section 893.13(1)(d)2., F.S.

²¹ Section 893.13(1)(e)2., F.S.

²² Section 893.13(1)(f)2., F.S.

²³ Section 893.13(1)(h)2., F.S.

²⁴ Section 893.13(2)(a)2. F.S.

²⁵ This provides prohibited acts and penalties for violating the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Control and Prevention Act.

²⁶ This is the Offense Severity Ranking Chart of the Criminal Punishment Code.

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:

Persons who use these drugs without a prescription may be prosecuted by the state.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement may experience an increased workload related to apprehending abusers of this expanded list of Schedule III medications. No agencies submitted analyses for this bill by the time of publication of this Senate Health Policy Committee analysis, so the exact fiscal impact on the state cannot be determined. Neither was this bill discussed at the 2013 Criminal Justice Impact Conference.²⁷

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Lines 61, 62, and 82 are redundant as they are all names for the same compound.

VII. Related Issues:

Section 893.03(3)(d)1., F.S., defines anabolic steroids as “any drug or hormonal substance, chemically and pharmacologically related to testosterone, other than estrogens, progestins, and corticosteroids, that promotes muscle growth.” All of the substances which the bill adds to this section have very different chemical structures than testosterone and thus may not fit the definition of “anabolic steroid.” In order to ensure that these substances are considered Schedule III in Florida, it may be best to classify them under a different part of s. 893.03(3), F.S.

²⁷ A listing of the bills discussed at the 2013 Criminal Justice Impact Conference is on file with the Senate Health Policy Committee.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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