

HB 218 -- CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Cox)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Judiciary

This bill changes the laws regarding the sale and possession of controlled substances. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Lowers, from 24 to 15 grams, the amount of any methamphetamine precursor drug or combination of methamphetamine precursor drugs in which possession is a class D felony;

(2) Lowers, from 9 to 7.5 grams, the amount of any drug product containing ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, or pseudoephedrine that can be sold to the same person within a 30-day period without regard to the number of transactions;

(3) Prohibits a pharmacist, intern pharmacist, or registered pharmacy technician from selling, dispensing, or otherwise providing and a person from purchasing, receiving, or otherwise acquiring any number of packages of any drug product containing ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, or pseudoephedrine in any total amount greater than 60 grams within any 12-month period without regard to the number of transactions;

(4) Specifies that the monthly and annual purchase limits contained in these provisions must include any quantities of the products that are purchased in other states where the other state is utilizing the same electronic tracking system utilized in Missouri;

(5) Specifies that each licensed pharmacy and pharmacist has the discretion to, in good faith, refuse to sell, dispense, or otherwise provide any individual with any methamphetamine precursor drug and will not be subject to criminal or civil liability in choosing to do so;

(6) Requires any person who has been found guilty or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felony drug crime to obtain a prescription to purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire any drug or drug product containing any amount of ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, or pseudoephedrine; and

(7) Requires the Department of Public Safety to implement a method of coordination between the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System within the State Highway Patrol and any electronic tracking system that tracks purchases of controlled substances to protect the privacy interests of persons purchasing controlled substances.