

HB 753 -- PILOT PROGRAM FOR IDENTIFYING NEW SYNTHETIC DRUGS

SPONSOR: Mims

This bill requires the Division of Drug and Crime Control in the State Highway Patrol within the Department of Public Safety to create a new pilot program that uses technologies and protocols to instantly identify new synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones, as well as other designer drugs. Beginning January 1, 2017, the division must submit an annual report to the General Assembly. The evaluation must include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Review of technical capabilities and accuracy rates of technologies and protocols for the pilot program;
- (2) Describe the impact to state and local crime lab backlogs if the technologies and protocols selected could eliminate the need to send synthetic drugs, or other illicit drugs to the crime lab for presumptive testing, including the potential cost savings to state and local government; and
- (3) Describe the status of the court's acceptance of the technologies and protocols selected for the pilot program for the presumptive identification of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones and other designer drugs.

The report must also identify any newly created synthetic drugs.