



The Public Health and Research Reforms in Controlled Substances Act

TITLE I — Amendments to the Controlled Substances Act

Section 101. Findings and declarations (21 U.S.C. 801)

Updates congressional findings by revising language to state that improper use of controlled substances “may represent a threat to public health,” harmonizing language of drug issues with definitions in Sec 102, to align it with public health terminology.

Section 102. Definitions (21 U.S.C. 802)

Adds and revises multiple definitions. Replaces “addict” with “person with a substance use disorder”; substitutes “Secretary” for “Attorney General” in several definitional authorities; adds an “and” in between the clauses under “controlled substance analogue” to require structural similarity and similar or greater CNS effects; removes “marihuana” from certain definitions; and adds definitions of: therapeutic value, threat to public health, multicriteria decision analysis for use in Sec. 101, 103 and 104.

Section 103. Authority and criteria for classification of substances (21 U.S.C. 811)

Transfers core scheduling authorities from the Attorney General to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), adds the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Attorney General as requestors, and layers in the reworked (formally 8-factor analysis to 15 factors) evaluation plus a Committee-driven multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA) to inform scheduling. It creates a new expert Committee (15–25 members) with specified expertise, meeting frequency, training, compensation, and procedures. It modernizes scheduling factors to emphasize public-health evidence, therapeutic applications, economic impacts, and the risks of scheduling itself, and it limits emergency scheduling initiation to ONDCP, with HHS executing temporary orders.

Section 104. Schedules of controlled substances (21 U.S.C. 812)

Creates a dual-axis scheduling framework: four numerical schedules (I–IV) based on risk of misuse/substance use disorder and threat to public health, and five alphabetical schedules (A–E) based on therapeutic value (from high to none/unknown). Substances can now be: Schedules 1A, 2C, 3B, etc. Establishes reevaluation timelines and a specific list of substances to be reviewed within 2 years, with all remaining substances to be reviewed within 8 years; sets default placements if HHS fails to complete required reevaluations; and removes marihuana and tetrahydrocannabinols from the schedules with retroactive application; establishes a priority review system for HHS to determine which substances shall be rescheduled in the new framework after the first set of substances.

Decreasing rates of development of substance use disorders and threat to public health

	Schedule I	Schedule II	Schedule III	Schedule IV
 Decreasing rates of therapeutic value	Schedule A			
	Schedule B			
	Schedule C			
	Schedule D			
	Schedule E (unknown or none)			

New Drug Schedules

Section 105. Schedules of controlled substances (21 U.S.C. 813)

Revises the treatment of controlled substance analogues to conform to the bill's new dual-axis scheduling framework. Analogues are no longer automatically treated solely as Schedule I substances, but instead must be placed in the same or a lower risk schedule than the parent substance and are assigned Schedule E for therapeutic value unless therapeutic value is established.

Section 106. Rules and regulations (21 U.S.C. 821)

Splits rulemaking and licensing authority: the Attorney General retains rulemaking for registration and control related to manufacture, distribution, and dispensing (except scientific investigators); the Secretary of HHS gains rulemaking and registration authority for registration of scientific investigators.

Section 107. Persons required to register (21 U.S.C. 822)

Implements Sec. 106; redistributes responsibilities so the Attorney General registers practitioners (non-investigators) to dispense, while the Secretary registers practitioners who are scientific investigators to conduct research. Removes separate Schedule I and Schedule II – V registration, in favor of one Schedule I -IV registration. Adjusts numerous cross-references and expands “continuity of research” provisions with expedited procedures: a 45-day notice framework for investigator registration, pilot-study pathways within the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and agency provision of limited quantities for research.

Section 108. Registration requirements (21 U.S.C. 823)

Implements Sec. 106; redistributes responsibilities so the Attorney General registers practitioners (non-investigators) to dispense, while the Secretary registers practitioners who are scientific investigators to conduct research. Adjusts numerous cross-references and expands “continuity of research” provisions with expedited procedures: a 45-day notice framework for investigator registration, pilot-study pathways within NIDA, and agency provision of limited quantities for research.



Section 109. Denial, revocation, or suspension of registration (21 U.S.C. 824)

Aligns denials and revocations of licenses so that, for scientific investigators, the Secretary exercises parallel authorities otherwise held by the Attorney General.

Section 110. Quotas applicable to certain substances (21 U.S.C. 826)

Transfers quota-setting from the Attorney General to the Secretary, adds ONDCP consultation, modifies reporting language, and clarifies procedures for adjustments to aggregate production quotas.

Section 111. Records and reports of registrants (21 U.S.C. 827)

Substitutes “Secretary” for “Attorney General” for scientific-investigator relevant reporting and updates schedule references to the new I–IV framework.

Section 112. Order forms (21 U.S.C. 828)

Allocates issuance of order forms between the Secretary (scientific investigators) and the Attorney General (all other persons), with conforming edits.

Section 113. Prescriptions (21 U.S.C. 829)

Extends certain prescribing controls to schedule I in the new framework and updates references so “schedule I or II” applies where appropriate rather than just Schedule II.

Section 114. Prohibited acts A—penalties (21 U.S.C. 841)

Reforms Federal drug trafficking penalties by eliminating weight-based mandatory minimum substance-specific penalties and consolidating penalties into a simplified framework based on the revised scheduling system. The section retains enhanced penalties for repeat offenders, distribution resulting in death or serious bodily injury, offenses involving Federal property, environmental harms, distribution to facilitate crimes of violence, and unlawful internet distribution of controlled substances, while removing provisions made unnecessary by the descheduling of marijuana. Aligns the financial penalties enhanced by the Fair Sentencing Act with the now-eliminated weight-based mandatory minimums for drugs in other schedules.

Section 115. Prohibited acts B—penalties (21 U.S.C. 842)

Removes “marihuana” from certain penalty provisions.

Section 116. Prohibited acts C—penalties (21 U.S.C. 843)

Removes “marihuana” from specified penalty text.

Section 117. Distribution to persons under age twenty-one (21 U.S.C. 859)

Strikes the last sentence, removing an enhanced-penalty clause tied to age-specific distribution.

Section 118. Distribution in or near schools (21 U.S.C. 860)

Strikes the last sentence, removing an enhanced-penalty clause tied to school proximity.



Section 119. Denial of Federal benefits to drug traffickers and possessors (21 U.S.C. 862)

Replaces “an addict” with “a person with a substance use disorder,” updating terminology across benefit-denial provisions.

Section 120. Drug paraphernalia (21 U.S.C. 863)

Removes references to “marijuana” in paraphernalia definitions, since marijuana is descheduled.

Section 121. Administrative Hearings (21 U.S.C. 875)

Extends administrative hearing authorities to the Secretary of Health and Human Services in addition to the Attorney General, enabling HHS to carry out hearing functions necessary to implement the bill’s transfer of scheduling, research registration, and related authorities.

Section 122. Judicial Review (21 U.S.C. 877)

Updates judicial review provisions to allow review of final determinations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in addition to those issued by the Attorney General, ensuring that actions transferred to HHS remain subject to Federal court review.

TITLE II — Amendments to Controlled Substances Import and Export Act

Section 201. Exportation of controlled substances (21 U.S.C. 953)

Removes schedule V references to align with the new I–IV schedule structure and makes corresponding technical amendments to export-control provisions

Section 202. Exemption authority (21 U.S.C. 956)

Eliminates exclusions for Schedule I substances, broadening exemption authority; removes Schedule V references.

Section 203. Registration requirements (21 U.S.C. 958)

Removes Schedule V references and updates importer and exporter registration provisions to conform to the bill’s revised Schedule I–IV system.

Section 204. Prohibited acts A—importation and exportation penalties (21 U.S.C. 960)

Conforms importation and exportation penalties to the revised penalty structure established under section 841. The section simplifies schedule-based penalties, aligns sanctions for Schedule III and IV substances with the revised domestic trafficking penalties, preserves enhanced penalties for repeat offenders and offenses resulting in death or serious bodily injury, and maintains penalties for unlawful international trade in listed chemicals and precursor substances.



TITLE III — Amendments to the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998

Section 301. Definitions (21 U.S.C. 1701)

Adds and revises definitions to support a formal federal evolving/emerging drug threat system (e.g., “covered drug-related threat,” “evolving or emerging drug threat,” “Federal classification,” “Federal designation,” and “Federal criteria”).

Section 302. Appointment and duties of Director and Deputy Director (21 U.S.C. 1703)

Strikes and reletters certain duties to streamline ONDCP roles ahead of the new classification system.

Section 303. National Drug Control Strategy (21 U.S.C. 1705)

Requires the Strategy to identify emerging drug or contaminant threat classifications, designations, agency compliance, missed deadlines, resource constraints, data gaps, and corrective actions, integrating oversight of the classification system into annual strategic planning.

Section 304. Federal evolving or emerging drug threat classification and response system (21 U.S.C. 1708)

Creates a formal federal classification system (threat being monitored; threat of interest; threat of concern; threat of high consequence), establishes Federal criteria and procedures, sets review thresholds, enables interim criteria, and defines government-wide effects and uniformity. Requires interagency response plans with deadlines, information sharing, a public dashboard, reduction/termination procedures for threats, and a Rapid Response Fund (\$5 million), enabling agencies to fund studies as needed.

TITLE IV — Marijuana Descheduling

Section 401. Conforming amendments to other laws

Makes conforming edits across multiple statutes (e.g., 16 U.S.C. 559b–d; 18 U.S.C. 2516; and various safety-sensitive transportation testing provisions at 49 U.S.C. 31301, 31306, 31310, 45101, 20140, 5331) to remove “marihuana” or to redefine “controlled substance” for testing programs.

Section 402. Effect on other law

Affirms that descheduling does not alter FDA or Public Health Service Act authorities, nor does it change FDA/Secretary rulemaking over cannabis-related products.

Section 403. Public meetings

Directs HHS, through the FDA to convene at not fewer than 3 public meeting within one year on regulation, safety, manufacturing, product quality, marketing, labeling, and sale of products containing cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds.



Section 404. Special rule for Federal employee testing

Permits HHS to continue including marijuana in federal employee testing programs notwithstanding descheduling; defines “marijuana” by cross-reference to CSA 21 U.S.C. 802.

TITLE V — Revision of United States Sentencing Guidelines

Section 501. Revision of United States Sentencing Guidelines regarding sentencing for drug offenses

Directs the United States Sentencing Commission to revise Federal sentencing guidelines to conform with the bill’s new scheduling and penalty framework. The revised guidelines must continue to account for a defendant’s culpability and role in the offense, as well as a substance’s schedule placement and its threat to public health. The section also authorizes expedited guideline amendments following rescheduling decisions. The Sentencing Commission is directed to modify the guidelines twice, first to account for the elimination of mandatory minimum penalties, and again after the first batch of compounds are rescheduled under Section 104 (c)(3).

Section 502. Resentencing

Authorizes courts to reduce sentences for individuals whose offenses would carry lower penalties under the bill. Requires the Bureau of Prisons to identify potentially eligible individuals, notify them of eligibility, and file sentence-reduction motions on their behalf, while preserving the ability of individuals to file motions independently.

TITLE VI — Effective Date

Section 601. Effective date

Sets an immediate effective date for most provisions; establishes a transition rule under which substances remain governed by preexisting CSA schedules and regulations until HHS places them within the new I–IV and A–E schedules or removes them.