

Highlights – State Bills Related to Methamphetamine Trafficking

Please note that the seven (7) bills highlighted on the following pages represent only a sample of proposed state bills related to the trafficking of methamphetamine and other controlled substances. This document will be updated as we continue to conduct research on this topic.

Indiana

House Bill No. 1103

Introduced January 8, 2007

- Bill adds a new Chapter regarding “hidden compartments” in vehicles
- “Hidden compartment” is defined as an enclosure integrated into a motor vehicle that is:
 - Designed to conceal the enclosure and any contents of the enclosure; and
 - Installed in the motor vehicle after the original manufacture of the motor vehicle.
- A person commits unlawful activity concerning a vehicle with a hidden compartment (a Class C misdemeanor) if he/she
 - Owns or operates a motor vehicle knowing that the motor vehicle contains a hidden compartment; or
 - Knowingly or intentionally constructs a hidden compartment for use in a motor vehicle or installs a hidden compartment in a motor vehicle
- New provision will allow for the seizure of a vehicle that contains a hidden compartment
- Establishes that persons who transport drugs in vehicles equipped with a hidden compartments (even if the drugs were not stored in the hidden compartments), are guilty of felonies

Maine

House Paper No. 67

Placed in Legislative Files (Dead) April 2, 2007

- Bill proposes a new subsection requiring courts to order terms of imprisonment of at least 25 years to life for defendants convicted of the offense of trafficking in methamphetamine when it is proven that the defendant manufactured methamphetamine

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Nevada

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections March 5, 2007

- This resolution directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee composed of three Assembly members and three Senate members, as well as appoint an advisory committee of nonvoting members who are not Legislators, to conduct an interim study of the use of methamphetamine in the State of Nevada
- The resolution notes that Nevada leads the nation in the number of people that use methamphetamine
- The study must include an examination of:
 - the nature and extent of the use of methamphetamine
 - the importation and manufacture of methamphetamine into/in Nevada
 - the most effective methods of decreasing the supply of methamphetamine in the State
 - the effects of methamphetamine on the health, safety and welfare of the State's residents
 - the most effective methods for preventing and treating methamphetamine abuse
 - projections for the future needs for services for the prevention and treatment of methamphetamine abuse in Nevada

North Carolina

Senate Bill No. 816

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary March 15, 2007

- This measure proposes to increase the criminal penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses
- Measure increases the punishments for selling, manufacturing, delivering, transporting or possessing 28 grams or more of methamphetamine/amphetamine as follows:
 - for amounts of 28 grams or more (but less than 200 grams) a person shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 130 months and maximum of 144 months (current minimum/maximum is 70/80)
 - for 200 grams or more (but less than 400 grams) a person shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 150 months and a maximum of 177 months (current minimum/maximum is 90/117)
 - for 400 grams or a person shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 285 months and a maximum of 339 months (current minimum/maximum is 225/279)

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Oklahoma

Senate Bill No. 677

Referred to Judiciary Committee March 15, 2007

- Bill would amend selected provisions of the “Trafficking in Illegal Drugs Act”
- The following violations are considered trafficking in illegal drugs:
 - Knowingly distributing, manufacturing or bringing into the state or possessing certain quantities of certain controlled substances (including methamphetamine)
 - Possessing any controlled substance with the intent to manufacture certain controlled substances in specified quantities
 - Using or soliciting the use of services of a person under the age of 18 to distribute or manufacture certain controlled substances in specified quantities
- Violations involving one pound or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine are deemed aggravated trafficking violations, punishable by fines of no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$500,000

South Carolina

House Bill No. 3047

Placed on Calendar for Criminal Practice & Procedure Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee April 11, 2007 - Scheduled

- This bill proposes adding a new statutory section under which a person may be charged with manslaughter if the death of another person is proximately caused by the unlawful distribution in methamphetamine or cocaine base and it is the ingestion of the drug that causes death
- The bill proposes adding an additional section under which a person who manufactures methamphetamine or cocaine base, and is convicted of an unlawful distribution violation, may have his/her sentence increased by two years if:
 - a person under the age of eighteen lives, is present or is endangered by exposure to the drug, its ingredients, its by-products or its waste; or
 - a law enforcement officer, probation or parole officer, emergency medical services employee, firefighter, or another person conducting a lawful investigation suffers serious injury while discharging or attempting to discharge his official duties and the injury is directly caused by one of the hazards associated with the drug’s manufacture

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Tennessee

House Bill No. 720

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary January 9, 2007

- This bill proposes adding a new section to the Tennessee Code that would make it an offense for any person to unlawfully import or transport, or cause to be unlawfully imported or transported from any other state, territory or country into this state methamphetamine