



2015 Federal Bills Table

(114th Congress of the United States)

Research current through April 20, 2015

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HOUSE		
HR 262	<p><i>States' Medical Marijuana Property Rights Protection Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To amend the Controlled Substances Act so as to exempt real property from civil forfeiture due to medical-marijuana-related conduct that is authorized by State law.</p> <p>Introduced by: Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Exempts real property from civil forfeiture under the Controlled Substances Act due to medical marijuana-related conduct that is authorized by state law.</p>	<p>2/2/15 – Referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations</p> <p>1/9/15 – Referred to the House Committees on the Judiciary, and on Energy and Commerce</p>
HR 471	<p><i>Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: To improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: Tom Marino (R-PA-10) (6 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Controlled Substances Act to define: (1) "factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety," for purposes of the Attorney General's determination of whether registering an applicant to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in Schedule I or II is in the public interest, as factors that are relevant to and consistent with the findings of such Act; and (2) "imminent danger to the public health or safety," for purposes of the suspension of such a registration, to mean that in the absence of an immediate suspension order, controlled substances will continue to be intentionally diverted outside of legitimate distribution channels or distributed or dispensed outside the usual course of professional practices or in a manner that poses a present or foreseeable risk of serious adverse health consequences or death; Requires an order to show cause as to why such a registration should not be denied, revoked, or suspended to: (1) contain a statement of the basis for the denial, revocation, or suspension, including specific citations to any laws or regulations alleged to be violated; (2) direct the applicant or registrant to appear before the Attorney General at a specific place and time within 30 days after receipt of the order; and (3) notify the applicant or registrant of the opportunity to submit a corrective action plan on or before such appearance; Requires the Attorney General, upon review of any such plan, to determine whether denial, revocation, or suspension</p>	<p>4/20/15 – Reported by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. H. Rept. 114-85, Part I; Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 63</p> <p>2/19/15 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations</p> <p>2/12/15 – Ordered to be Reported - House Committee on Energy and Commerce</p> <p>2/04/15 – Ordered to be Reported - House Subcommittee on Health</p> <p>1/22/15 – Referred to the Senate Committees on Energy and Commerce; and Judiciary</p>

	<p>proceedings should be discontinued or deferred for purposes of modifications to such plan; Makes such requirements inapplicable to the issuance of an immediate suspension order; and Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to submit a report identifying: (1) obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances; (2) issues with diversion of controlled substances; and (3) how collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the pharmaceutical industry can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.</p>	
HR 613	<p><i>Servicemember Assistance for Lawful Understanding, Treatment, and Education Act or the "SALUTE Act"</i></p> <p>Official Title: To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize veterans' treatment courts and encourage services for veterans.</p> <p>Introduced by: Patrick Meehan (R-PA-07) (19 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to award grants for developing, implementing, or enhancing veterans' treatment courts or expanding operational mental health or drug courts to serve veterans to ensure that such courts effectively integrate substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services, in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over non-violent offenders who are veterans; and orders the GAO to conduct a study to assess the effectiveness and impact of the veterans' treatment court grant program.</p>	<p>3/17/15 – Referred to the House Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee</p> <p>1/28/15 – Referred to the House Judiciary Committee</p>
HR 667	<p><i>Veterans Equal Access Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To authorize Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans regarding participation in State marijuana programs.</p> <p>Introduced by: Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03) (17 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to authorize physicians and other health care providers employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans who are residents of states with state</p>	<p>2/13/15 – Referred to the House Health Subcommittee</p> <p>2/3/15 – Referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee</p>

	marijuana programs regarding the participation of veterans in such marijuana programs.	
HR 759	<p><i>Recidivism Risk Reduction Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To enhance public safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system with offender risk and needs assessment, individual risk reduction incentives and rewards, and risk and recidivism reduction.</p> <p>Introduced by Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-03) (3 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Enhances public safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal prison system; Reduce the recidivism rates of Federal offenders; Establishes offender risk and needs assessments as the cornerstone of a more effective and efficient federal prison system; Implements a validated post-sentencing risk and needs assessment system that relies on dynamic risk factors (like substance abuse) to provide Federal prison officials with a roadmap to address the individual criminogenic needs of federal offenders, manage limited resources, and enhance public safety; Enhances existing recidivism reduction programs and prison jobs by incentivizing federal prisoners to reduce their individual risk of recidivism by participating and successfully completing such programs, and by satisfactorily holding such jobs over time; Rewards federal prisoners who actually reduce their individual risk of recidivism by providing them with the ability to earn and accrue time credits, and to transfer into prerelease custody when they are assessed as low risk and have earned sufficient time credits; Expands the implementation of evidence-based intervention and treatment programs designed to reduce recidivism so all federal prisoners have access to them during their entire terms of incarceration; Performs regular outcome evaluations of programs and interventions to assure that they are evidence-based and to suggest changes, deletions, and expansions based on the results; and Assists the U.S. Department of Justice to address the underlying cost structure of the federal prison system and ensures that DOJ can continue to run prisons safely and securely without compromising the scope or quality of DOJ's other critical law enforcement missions.</p>	<p>3/16/15 – Referred to the House Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee</p> <p>2/5/15 – Referred to the House Judiciary Committee</p>

<p>HR 953 (companion to S 524)</p>	<p><i>Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.</p> <p>Introduced by Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI-05) (8 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Convenes a “Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force;” Provides grants to eligible entities to expand educational efforts to prevent abuse of opioids, heroin, and other substances of abuse, understand addiction as a chronic disease, and promote treatment and recovery; Provides community-based coalition enhancement grants; Provides grants to eligible entities to create a demonstration law enforcement program to prevent opioid and heroin overdose death; Such law enforcement grants must be used to develop, implement, or expand a treatment alternative to incarceration program to (1) make naloxone available to be carried and administered by law enforcement officers; (2) train and provide resources for law enforcement officers on carrying and administering naloxone for the prevention of opioid and heroin overdose death; and (3) establish processes, protocols, and mechanisms for referral to treatment; Provides grants to eligible entities to expand or make available disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications; Provides grants to state and local entities, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes or tribal organizations that have a high rate, or have had a rapid increase, in the use of heroin or other opioids, to permit such entities to expand activities, including an expansion in the availability of medication assisted treatment, with respect to the treatment of addiction in the specific geographical areas of such entities where there is a rate or rapid increase in the use of heroin or other opioids; Provides grants to eligible entities to implement medication assisted treatment programs through criminal justice agencies; Provides grants to eligible entities to help them (1) provide substance use recovery support services to young people in high school and enrolled in institutions of higher education; (2) build communities of support for young people in recovery through a spectrum of activities such as counseling and health and wellness-oriented social activities; and (3) start initiatives designed to help young people achieve and sustain recovery from substance use disorders; Provides grants to recovery community organizations to enable such organizations to develop, expand, and enhance recovery services; Provides grants to eligible entities to design, implement, and expand</p>	<p>2/12/2015 - Referred to the House Committees on the Judiciary; Energy and Commerce; and Education and the Workforce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.</p>
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	<p>educational programs for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, through the Correctional Education Demonstration Grant Program; Provides joint grants to a state substance abuse agency and a state criminal justice agency to address the use of opioids and heroin among pregnant and parenting female offenders in the state to promote public safety, public health, family permanence, and well-being as well as to families and veterans; and Provides grants to states, and combinations thereof, to prepare a comprehensive plan for, and implementation of, an integrated opioid abuse response initiative.</p>	
HR 1013	<p><i>Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To decriminalize marijuana at the federal level to leave to the states a power to regulate marijuana that is similar to the power they have to regulate alcohol, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: Jared Polis (D-CO-2) (15 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Removes marijuana in any form from all schedules under the Controlled Substances Act; Amends the Federal Alcohol Administration Act to (1) make it unlawful to import or sell marijuana; (2) manufacture or cultivate marijuana; or (3) resell marijuana unless a permit is issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury; and Lists the requirements for obtaining a permit to import, sell, or resell marijuana, among other things.</p>	<p>3/9/15 – Referred to the House Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee</p> <p>2/20/15 – Referred to the Committees on the Judiciary; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Natural Resources; and Agriculture</p>
HR 1014	<p><i>Marijuana Tax Revenue Act of 2015</i></p> <p>To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of marijuana, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3) (7 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code to impose an excise tax on: (1) the sale of marijuana by producers or importers; and (2) each person who is engaged in a marijuana enterprise; Defines "marijuana enterprise" to mean a producer, importer, manufacturer, distributor, retailer, or any person who transports, stores, displays, or otherwise participates in any business activity that handles marijuana or marijuana products; Requires anyone who engages in a marijuana enterprise to obtain a permit to engage in such an enterprise; Imposes civil penalties for failure to comply with the requirements of the Act and criminal penalties for engaging in a marijuana enterprise without a permit, failing to keep or make required records or for</p>	<p>2/20/15 – Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee</p>

	making false records, or refusing to pay or evading a tax imposed by this Act and for other offenses related to the sale of marijuana.	
HR 1462 (companion to S 799)	<p><i>Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome</p> <p>Introduced by: Katherine Clark (D-MA-05) (21 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Directs of HHS to conduct a study and develop recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome, soliciting input from nongovernmental entities, and other entities, as appropriate; Directs HHS to publish on the Web a report on the study and recommendations that include: (1) a comprehensive assessment of existing research with respect to the prevention, identification, treatment, and long-term outcomes of neonatal abstinence syndrome, including the identification and treatment of pregnant women or women who may become pregnant who use opioids or other drugs; (2) an evaluation of the causes of, and risk factors for, opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women; the barriers to identifying and treating opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant and postpartum women and women with young children; current practices in the health care system to respond to and treat pregnant women with opioid use disorders and infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome; medically indicated use of opioids during pregnancy; access to treatment for opioid use disorders in pregnant and postpartum women; and access to treatment for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and (3) recommendations on preventing, identifying, and treating neonatal abstinence syndrome in infants; treating pregnant women who are dependent on opioids; and preventing opioid dependence among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women, who may be at risk of developing opioid dependence; Directs HHS to lead a review of planning and coordination related to prenatal opioid use and neonatal abstinence syndrome; Directs HHS to develop a strategy to address research and program gaps, including such gaps identified in findings made by reports of the Government Accountability Office; Directs HHS to submit to the Senate HELP Committee and House Committee on Energy and Commerce a report of its findings; and Orders the CDC to provide TA to states to improve the availability and</p>	3/19/15 – Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee

	quality of data collection and surveillance activities regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome.	
HR 1538 (companion to S 683)	<p>Compassionate Access, Research Expansion, and Respect States (CARERS) Act of 2015</p> <p>Official Title: To extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana</p> <p>Introduced by: Steve Cohen (D-TN-09) (14 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Controlled Substances by downgrading marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule II substance; Excludes cannabidoil from the definition of marijuana; Loosens restrictions on banks to allow them to do business with entities in the marijuana industry; Orders the AG to issue licenses to manufacture marijuana and marijuana-derivatives for research approved by the FDA; and Allows doctors in the VA to recommend marijuana for veterans who live in states that allow it.</p>	<p>4/7/15 – Referred to the House Health Subcommittee</p> <p>3/23/15 – Referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce; the Judiciary; Financial Services; and Veterans' Affairs</p>
HR 1717 (companion to S 728)	<p><i>Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Reauthorization Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking</p> <p>Introduced by: Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40)(45 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program to reduce underage drinking for FY2016-FY2020; Revises reporting requirements for state programs on underage drinking; Specifies additional requirements for the development of the national media campaign to prevent underage drinking; Directs SAMHSA to make grants to professional pediatric provider organizations to increase effective practices, including the screening of children and adolescents for alcohol use, to reduce the prevalence of alcohol use among individuals under the age of 21, including college students; Directs the HHS to collect data and conduct or support new research on underage drinking that carries out and improves public health surveillance of alcohol use and alcohol-related conditions in states among individuals between age 18 and 20 by increasing the use of surveys, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to monitor binge and excessive drinking and related harms.</p>	<p>3/26/15 – Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee</p>

<p>HR 1725 (companion to S 480)</p>	<p>National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Reauthorization Act of 2015</p> <p>Official Title: To amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes</p> <p>Introduced by: Ed Whitfield (R-KY-01) (4 Cosponsors)</p> <p>Reauthorizes the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act, providing grant funding to states to foster the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PMPs) in the fight against the growing prescription drug abuse epidemic; Allows SAMHSA to provide grants to states for the establishment, implementation, and improvement of PMPs offering timely access to accurate prescription information; Recognizes the importance of data sharing between state PMPs; Promotes greater information sharing by requiring grantees to facilitate PMP interoperability with at least one bordering state, while simultaneously protecting against unauthorized access to patient records; Encourages states to explore ways to incorporate access to their PMPs into provider workflow systems such as electronic health records and e-prescribing, making prescriber access to PMPs faster and more efficient to facilitate usage of the warning systems.</p>	<p>3/26/15 – Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee</p>
<p>HR 1812</p>	<p><i>Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission</p> <p>Introduced by: Eliot Engel (D-NY-16) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Establishes the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission (the “Commission”) to conduct a comprehensive review of U.S. foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere to reduce the illicit drug supply and drug abuse and reduce the damage associated with illicit drug markets and trafficking; Identifies policy and program options to improve existing international counter-narcotics policy; Includes numerous evaluations to be conducted on a host of topics that include drug interdiction, crop eradication, alternative development, drug production surveys, police and justice sector training, demand reduction, and strategies to target drug kingpins; the impact of United States counter-narcotics assistance programs in the Western Hemisphere the links between the illegal narcotics trade in the Western Hemisphere and terrorist activities around the world;</p>	<p>4/15/15 – Referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee</p>

	U.S. efforts to combat narco-terrorism in the Western Hemisphere; and other topics; Provides information on the Commissions formation and operation, among other things.	
	SENATE	
S 36	<p><i>Protecting Our Youth from Dangerous Synthetic Drugs Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.</p> <p>Introduced by Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) (10 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Controlled Substances Act to define a controlled substance analogue as (1) a substance whose chemical structure is substantially similar to the chemical structure of a controlled substance in schedule I or II (a) which has a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to or greater than the stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled substance in schedule I or II; or (b) with respect to a particular person, which such person represents or intends to have a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to or greater than the stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled substance in schedule I or II; or (2) a substance designated as a controlled substance analogue by the Controlled Substance Analogue Committee . . . and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of HHS.</p> <p>The Committee will be (1) headed by the Administrator of the DEA; and (2) comprised of scientific experts in the fields of chemistry and pharmacology from (a) the DEA; (b) NIDA; (c) CDC; and (d) any other federal agency determined by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of HHS.</p>	1/6/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee
S 64	<p><i>Drug Free Families Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program</p> <p>Introduced by: David Vitter (R-LA)</p>	1/7/15 – Referred to the Senate Finance Committee

	Amends Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) of the Social Security Act to require state TANF programs to implement a program to test TANF applicants and recipients for illegal drug use; and Requires state TANF programs to deny assistance to individuals who test positive for illegal drugs and individuals convicted of drug-related crimes.	
S 122	<p><i>Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.</p> <p>Introduced by: John McCain (R-AZ) (3 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) to require HHS to promulgate regulations within 180 days permitting individuals to import a prescription drug purchased from an approved Canadian pharmacy that: (1) is dispensed by a pharmacist licensed in Canada; (2) is purchased for personal use in quantities not greater than a 90-day supply; (3) is filled using a valid prescription issued by a physician licensed to practice in the United States; and (4) has the same active ingredient or ingredients, route of administration, dosage form, and strength as a prescription drug approved under the FFDCA; Sets forth exceptions, including for controlled substances and biological products; and Establishes a certification process for approving Canadian pharmacies; Requires HHS to publish a list of approved Canadian pharmacies.</p>	1/8/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
S 392	<p><i>Stop Drugs at the Border Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to combat heroin and methamphetamine trafficking across the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: Joe Donnelly (D-IN) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Ensures regular updates of the National Southwest Border Counter-narcotics Strategy to address any increased heroin and methamphetamine trafficking along the U.S./Mexico border; and Requires the head of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to submit a report to Congress on the resources it needs as a result of any increase.</p>	2/5/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee
S 449	<p><i>A Bill to Reduce Recidivism and Increase Public Safety</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety.</p>	2/11/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

	<p>Introduced by: Rob Portman (R-OH) (No Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Subject to the availability of appropriations, selects a number of federal judicial districts to conduct federal reentry demonstration projects using the best practices identified in an evaluation conducted under the bill; Among other things, assists participating prisoners in preparing for and adjusting to reentry into the community and includes (1) regular drug testing for participants with a history of substance abuse; and (2) substance abuse treatment, which may include addiction treatment medication, if appropriate, medical treatment, including mental health treatment, occupational, vocational and educational training, life skills instruction, recovery support, conflict resolution training, and other programming to promote effective reintegration into the community; Establishes a recidivism reduction and recovery enhancement pilot program, premised on high-intensity supervision and the use of swift, predictable, and graduated sanctions for noncompliance with program rules, in federal judicial districts; and Requires a report on the program that includes keeping track of the rates of substance abuse among program participants.</p>	
S 467	<p><i>Corrections Oversight, Recidivism Reduction, and Eliminating Costs for Taxpayers In Our National System (CORRECTIONS) Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: John Cornyn (R-TX) (8 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Makes available to all prisoners recidivism reduction programs and evaluates the effectiveness of such programs; Includes in such programs include “recovery programming,” which is a course of instruction or activities that has been demonstrated to reduce drug or alcohol abuse or dependence among participants, or to promote recovery among individuals who have previously abused alcohol or drugs, to include appropriate medication-assisted treatment; Promotes pre and post-release programs as well as reentry programs; and Includes numerous tools to promote recovery and prevent drug and alcohol abuse and dependence, including the “full utilization of residential drug treatment,” among other things.</p>	2/11/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee
S 480	<p><i>National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Reauthorization Act of 2015</i></p>	2/12/15 – Referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor,

<p>(companion to HR 1725)</p>	<p>Official Title: A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act</p> <p>Introduced by: Jean Shaheen (D-NH) (10 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Reauthorizes the law which provides grants to state-based prescription monitoring programs (PMPs) to expand, improve, and maintain their systems; improves the ability of law enforcement, public health officials and state regulators to investigate prescribing and dispensing practices; supports existing state PMPs to help monitor prescription drugs, provide information to healthcare providers, and offer educational outreach.</p>	<p>and Pensions Committee</p>
<p>S 483</p>	<p><i>Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Introduced by: Orrin Hatch (R-UT) (3 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Controlled Substances Act to define: (1) "factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety," for purposes of the Attorney General's determination of whether registering an applicant to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in Schedule I or II is in the public interest, as factors that are relevant to and consistent with the findings of such Act; and (2) "imminent danger to the public health or safety," for purposes of the suspension of such a registration, to mean that in the absence of an immediate suspension order, controlled substances will continue to be intentionally diverted outside of legitimate distribution channels or distributed or dispensed outside the usual course of professional practices or in a manner that poses a present or foreseeable risk of serious adverse health consequences or death; Requires an order to show cause as to why such a registration should not be denied, revoked, or suspended to: (1) contain a statement of the basis for the denial, revocation, or suspension, including specific citations to any laws or regulations alleged to be violated; (2) direct the applicant or registrant to appear before the Attorney General at a specific place and time within 30 days after receipt of the order; and (3) notify the applicant or registrant of the opportunity to submit a corrective action plan on or before such appearance; Requires the Attorney General, upon review of any such plan, to determine whether denial, revocation, or</p>	<p>2/12/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.</p>

	<p>suspension proceedings should be discontinued or deferred for purposes of modifications to such plan; Makes such requirements inapplicable to the issuance of an immediate suspension order; and Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to submit a report identifying: (1) obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances; (2) issues with diversion of controlled substances; and (3) how collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the pharmaceutical industry can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.</p>	
<p>S 524 (companion to HR 953)</p>	<p><i>Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.</p> <p>Introduced by: Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) (12 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Convenes a “Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force;” Provides grants to eligible entities to expand educational efforts to prevent abuse of opioids, heroin, and other substances of abuse, understand addiction as a chronic disease, and promote treatment and recovery; Provides community-based coalition enhancement grants; Provides grants to eligible entities to create a demonstration law enforcement program to prevent opioid and heroin overdose death; Such law enforcement grants must be used to develop, implement, or expand a treatment alternative to incarceration program to (1) make naloxone available to be carried and administered by law enforcement officers; (2) train and provide resources for law enforcement officers on carrying and administering naloxone for the prevention of opioid and heroin overdose death; and (3) establish processes, protocols, and mechanisms for referral to treatment; Provides grants to eligible entities to expand or make available disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications; Provides grants to state and local entities, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes or tribal organizations that have a high rate, or have had a rapid increase, in the use of heroin or other opioids, to permit such entities to expand activities, including an expansion in the availability of medication assisted treatment, with respect to the treatment of addiction in the specific geographical areas of such entities where there is a rate or rapid increase in the use of heroin or</p>	<p>2/12/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee</p>

	<p>other opioids; Provides grants to eligible entities to implement medication assisted treatment programs through criminal justice agencies; Provides grants to eligible entities to help them (1) provide substance use recovery support services to young people in high school and enrolled in institutions of higher education; (2) build communities of support for young people in recovery through a spectrum of activities such as counseling and health and wellness-oriented social activities; and (3) start initiatives designed to help young people achieve and sustain recovery from substance use disorders; Provides grants to recovery community organizations to enable such organizations to develop, expand, and enhance recovery services; Provides grants to eligible entities to design, implement, and expand educational programs for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, through the Correctional Education Demonstration Grant Program; Provides joint grants to a state substance abuse agency and a state criminal justice agency to address the use of opioids and heroin among pregnant and parenting female offenders in the state to promote public safety, public health, family permanence, and well-being as well as to families and veterans; and Provides grants to states, and combinations thereof, to prepare a comprehensive plan for, and implementation of, an integrated opioid abuse response initiative.</p>	
<p>S 636</p>	<p><i>Increasing the Safety of Prescription Drug Use Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse.</p> <p>Introduced by: Tom Udall (D-NM) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Amends existing law and ensures that states create PDMPs that (1) are interoperable with those in other states, federal agencies and across appropriate state agencies, including health agencies, as determined by the Secretary; (2) are interoperable with electronic health records and e-prescribing, where appropriate; and (3) provide automatic, real-time or daily information about a patient when a practitioner requests information about such patient, among other things.</p> <p>Awards five-year grants to eligible entities to facilitate training in order to increase the capacity of health care providers to conduct patient screening and brief interventions to prevent the abuse of prescription drugs and other controlled substances. Also awards grants to states to develop continuing education criteria and review processes that allow state health profession</p>	<p>3/3/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee</p>

	boards or state agencies to certify appropriate education and training for informed and safe prescribing of opioids and other drugs on Schedules II and III under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812).	
S 683 (companion to HR 1538)	<p><i>Compassionate Access Research Expansion and Respect States (CAREERS) Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to extend the principles of federalism to state drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.</p> <p>Introduced by: Cory Booker (D-NJ) (4 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Controlled Substances Act by downgrading marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule II substance; Eases some restrictions on transporting marijuana between states thereby expanding access to medical marijuana to patients in states that do not allow medical marijuana; Loosens restrictions on banks to allow them to do business with entities in the marijuana industry; Directs NIDA to broaden access to marijuana for research; and Allows doctors in the VA to recommend marijuana for veterans who live in states that allow it.</p>	3/10/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee
S 707	<p><i>Opioid Overdose Reduction Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administrations of opioid overdose drugs</p> <p>Introduced by: Edward Markey (D-MA) (3 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Exempts from liability: (1) Individuals who work or volunteer at an opioid overdose program from any harm caused by the emergency administration of an opioid overdose drug that they provide as a part of an opioid overdose program; (2) Healthcare professionals from any harm caused by the emergency administration of an opioid overdose drug that they prescribe or provide to any person provided that person receives education in the proper administration of the opioid overdose drug and steps to be taken after administration of the drug; and (3) Individuals, including first responders, who administer an opioid overdose drug to a person who is or reasonably appears to have suffered an overdose provided they either are doing so pursuant to a prescription or they obtained the overdose drug from an overdose program or a healthcare professional and received education in the proper administration of the overdose</p>	3/11/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee

	drug, including steps to be taken after administration of the drug.	
S 724	<p><i>Protecting Kids from Candy-Flavored Drugs Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing candy-flavored controlled substances to minors.</p> <p>Introduced by: Charles Grassley (R-IA) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Amends existing law to subject a person to enhanced penalties if the person manufactures, creates, distributes, dispenses, or possesses with intent to distribute a controlled substance in Schedule I or II that is (1) combined with a candy or beverage product; (2) marketed or packaged to appear similar to a candy or beverage product; or (3) modified by flavoring or coloring to appear similar to a candy or beverage product; and knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the controlled substance will be distributed, dispensed, or sold to a person under 18 years of age.</p>	3/12/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee
S 728 (companion to HR 1717)	<p><i>Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Reauthorization (STOP) Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking</p> <p>Introduced by: Charles Schumer (D-NY) (No Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program to reduce underage drinking for FY2015-FY2018; Revises reporting requirements for state programs on underage drinking; Specifies additional requirements for the development of the national media campaign to prevent underage drinking; Directs the Administrator of the SAMHSA to make grants to professional pediatric provider organizations to increase effective practices, including the screening of children and adolescents for alcohol use, to reduce the prevalence of alcohol use among individuals under the age of 21, including college students. Directs the Secretary of HHS to collect data and conduct or support new research on underage drinking that improves and conducts public health surveillance of alcohol use and alcohol-related conditions in states among individuals between age 18 and 20 by increasing the use of surveys, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to monitor binge and excessive drinking and related harms; Amends the Federal Alcohol Administration Act to prohibit the</p>	3/12/15 – Read twice and referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

	manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession of powdered alcohol.	
S 799 (companion to HR 1462)	<p><i>Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome</p> <p>Introduced by: Mitch McConnell (R-KY) (1 Co-sponsor)</p> <p>Directs of HHS to conduct a study and develop recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome, soliciting input from nongovernmental entities, and other entities, as appropriate; Directs HHS to publish on the Web a report on the study and recommendations that include: (1) a comprehensive assessment of existing research with respect to the prevention, identification, treatment, and long-term outcomes of neonatal abstinence syndrome, including the identification and treatment of pregnant women or women who may become pregnant who use opioids or other drugs; (2) an evaluation of the causes of, and risk factors for, opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women; the barriers to identifying and treating opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant and postpartum women and women with young children; current practices in the health care system to respond to and treat pregnant women with opioid use disorders and infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome; medically indicated use of opioids during pregnancy; access to treatment for opioid use disorders in pregnant and postpartum women; and access to treatment for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and (3) recommendations on preventing, identifying, and treating neonatal abstinence syndrome in infants; treating pregnant women who are dependent on opioids; and preventing opioid dependence among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women, who may be at risk of developing opioid dependence; Directs HHS to lead a review of planning and coordination related to prenatal opioid use and neonatal abstinence syndrome; Directs HHS to develop a strategy to address research and program gaps, including such gaps identified in findings made by reports of the Government Accountability Office; Directs HHS to submit to the Senate HELP Committee and House Committee on Energy and Commerce a report of its findings; and Orders the CDC to provide TA to states to improve the availability and quality of data collection and surveillance activities regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome.</p>	3/19/15 – Referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

<p>S 954</p>	<p><i>FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act</i></p> <p>Official Title: A bill to establish procedures regarding the approval of opioid drugs by the Food and Drug Administration</p> <p>Introduced by: Joe Manchin (D-WV) (3 Co-sponsors)</p> <p>Requires the FDA to convene an advisory committee meeting for all opioid medications, including generic drugs, before making a decision on approval, holding the FDA accountable for the opioid drugs that it approves; Provides that If the advisory committee does not recommend approval of an opioid medication due to health and safety concerns, the FDA commissioner would be required to make the final decision regarding the drug's approval; Provides that if the FDA ignores the recommendation of the advisory committee, the agency would be required to submit a report to the chairmen and ranking members of the relevant committees that justifies why the agency ignored the recommendation; Orders that the report must include any conflicts of interest that FDA officials may have and requires the agency to submit a copy of the report to any member of Congress who requests a copy; and Requires that distribution of the drug would be prohibited until the report is submitted.</p>	<p>4/15/15 – Referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee</p>
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