

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 1195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to studies and reports on the prosecution of criminal
3 cases involving abusable synthetic substances.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. STUDY. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Abusable synthetic substance" has the meaning
7 assigned by Section 484.001, Health and Safety Code.

8 (2) "Department" means the Department of Public
9 Safety.

10 (b) The department shall conduct a study regarding the
11 prosecution of criminal cases involving abusable synthetic
12 substances.

13 (c) The study under this section must address:

14 (1) best practices in the prosecution of criminal
15 cases involving abusable synthetic substances; and

16 (2) the necessity of and funding for expert witnesses
17 in investigations and prosecutions of criminal cases involving
18 abusable synthetic substances.

19 (d) The department shall compile a report of the results of
20 the study, including any legislative recommendations, and submit
21 the report to the legislature not later than January 1, 2019.

22 SECTION 2. JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE. (a) In this section,
23 "abusable synthetic substance" has the meaning assigned by Section
24 484.001, Health and Safety Code.

1 (b) A joint interim committee is created to study, review,
2 and report on the prosecution of criminal cases involving abusable
3 synthetic substances.

4 (c) The joint interim committee shall be composed of three
5 senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and three members of
6 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
7 of representatives.

8 (d) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
9 representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the
10 joint interim committee members.

11 (e) The joint interim committee shall convene at the joint
12 call of the co-chairs.

13 (f) The joint interim committee has all other powers and
14 duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the
15 senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
16 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees
17 on administration.

18 (g) The joint interim committee shall evaluate:

19 (1) the cost and efficacy of various methods to
20 analyze abusable synthetic substances and test persons for the use
21 of abusable synthetic substances;

22 (2) public outreach and marketing campaigns that have
23 the potential to reduce use of abusable synthetic substances; and

24 (3) the availability and cost of appropriate treatment
25 for individuals who use abusable synthetic substances.

26 (h) The joint interim committee shall prepare a report of
27 the findings of the committee that includes any proposed reforms.

1 The committee shall submit the report to the legislature not later
2 than January 1, 2019.

3 (i) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of
4 this Act, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
5 representatives shall appoint the members of the joint interim
6 committee in accordance with this section.

7 (j) The joint interim committee created under this section
8 is abolished January 2, 2019.

9 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 2, 2019.

10 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
11 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
12 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
13 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
14 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.