

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence
For HB 178

Compiled on: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 1:42 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Daniel Patton, Cpt.

Self

Howe, TX

Alcohol injures and kills far more people each year than cannabis by far. Cannabis has many useful medical uses and can be used to help many as well as the fact the hemp by products can be used for many everyday items. Penalizing someone for consuming cannabis is far worse than penalizing someone for alcohol consumption which is proven to have no medicinal affects and kill far more people each year!

Patrick Calhoun

Self

Ft worth, TX

Stop arresting people over a plant.

Cynthia Brennan

Senior citizens

Georgetown, TX

We need to totally legalize. These worthless blockades are extremely unpopular with all parties. Seniors are sick of being labeled as law breakers for no legitimate reason.

Libertarian/Centrist Presidential Candidate Rickey Morris Jr, Previous Homeland Security Supervisor to the Port of Houston as Sgt.

Minister and Security 20+ years/Human Souls Freedom from slavery and prohibition.

Houston, TX

I currently have been utilizing compassionate use through doctors care since 2021 after a major car accident caused me to become permanently disabled not to the point of wheelchair for long but yes to a walker and knee braces almost anytime standing. I would have to take 8 medication sold by the US Federal government to stay out of pain not to re shut down my kidneys liver and heart due to the accident. I am here and 6-8 hrs daily painless not gone but greatly tolerated. I can't lift heavy but that due my ailment never impairment which I have not had any not 1 negative affect. God Bless You All in Freedom. Do what's right decriminalization of cannabis is just a start to righting so many wrong law created by the last 10 previous Federal administrations

Christopher Jenkins

FYHO

Houston, TX

Decriminalization and rescheduling because of overwhelming court systems and over occupied jail facilities causing system errors and system failures. There is no oversight or accountability in city, county and state institutions that can create a remedy for unconstitutional activities to it's citizens.

Rick Mauk

Self

Deer Park, TX

Pass it

Bill Kelly

Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Houston, Texas, TX

The Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors and the Houston Forensic Science Center, the crime laboratory serving the City of Houston's police department, seek the intent and possible amendment to Article 38.51 of HB 178, as the current bill language would cause major implications for our lab and labs across the state.

Proposal: Amendment to Texas House Bill 178 Article 38.51.

Section 1. Amend Article 38.51 of the Government Code by similar language as follows:

If evidence that may be a controlled substance is submitted to a laboratory for testing and it is reasonably possible that the substance is or contains fentanyl, a test must be performed following validated laboratory procedures and sampling protocols to determine whether the substance is or contains fentanyl. For large samples of controlled substances, where individual testing of each pill in the sample would be time-consuming, labor-intensive, and financially burdensome, one pill from several different groups within the sample may be tested to represent the entire sample. The laboratory shall ensure that the sample is representative and that the pill selected for testing is randomly chosen from each group.

Explanation:

The proposed amendment seeks to clarify the testing requirements for controlled substances suspected to contain fentanyl, specifically for large samples of pills. In such cases, requiring individual testing of each pill in the sample would be impractical and resource-intensive, leading to increased time, labor, and financial burden. Instead, the amendment allows for the testing of one pill from several different groups within the sample, chosen randomly, to represent the entire sample. This would ensure that the sample is still tested for fentanyl, while reducing the burden on laboratories and preserving resources. Overall, the proposed amendment would help to clarify the testing requirements for controlled substances suspected to contain fentanyl, while still ensuring accurate and reliable testing practices.