



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1217

PRINTERS NO. 1580

PRIME SPONSOR: Stern

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2012/13 | FY 2013/14 |
|--------------|------------|----------------------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | See "Fiscal Impact" below. |

SUMMARY: House Bill 1217 amends the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act concerning what is considered a controlled substance. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act concerning schedules of controlled substances. The bill adds to the list of Schedule 1 substances certain compounds which are commonly marketed as "Bath Salts". This includes substances which contain the core chemical molecules common in bath salts, regardless of any minor changes to molecular structures attached to the core.

The bill also removes language pertaining to synthetic cannabinoids, or synthetic marijuana, and replaces it with new language defining these prohibited substances in a manner which will apply the Act to minor chemical changes to the core molecule. It also adds any other synthetic substance that is a "cannabinoid receptor type I agonist" unless it is contained in another schedule under the act, approved by the FDA, or used within approved medical research.

FISCAL IMPACT: The potential costs of this legislation cannot be determined at this time. While this could create additional costs for the Commonwealth to the extent that individuals are arrested and incarcerated for possessing and selling these substances, no reliable data exist to estimate what that number of offenders might be. The average cost for incarcerating an individual at the State Department of Corrections is approximately \$35,000 per year. The average yearly cost of supervising an individual on state probation or parole is \$3,000. The average cost for incarceration in a county jail is approximately \$70 per day, or \$25,615 per year. The average cost for supervising a county adult offender is \$860 per year.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 7, 2013