

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 348

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 348 would amend the list of Schedule I controlled substances by adding the chemical compounds HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073 and BZP to the hallucinogenic substances category.

The bill would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senators Vicki Schmidt, Derek Schmidt and Mike Petersen. Proponents of the bill providing oral or written testimony included Senators Vicki Schmidt and Mike Petersen and representatives of the Institute on Global Drug Policy, Topeka Police Department, Kansas Peace Officers' Association, Johnson County Sheriff's Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association.

The proponents commented on the growing use of the unregulated synthetic cannabinoids, JWH-018 and JWH-073, also known as "K2." Another synthetic cannabinoid, HU-210, is a similar chemical that already appears on the federal Schedule of Controlled Substances but does not appear on the Kansas Schedule of Controlled Substances. Preliminary studies indicate that the three synthetic cannabinoids are from three to over 100 times more potent than THC which is a

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

compound found in marijuana. K2 is referred to as the new marijuana. Additionally, K2 appears to be gaining popularity among high school students, parolees and persons on probation in areas of Kansas. While having the same physiological effects as high quality marijuana, K2 does not show a positive reading in an urinalysis test.

A committee amendment would add the synthetic drug benzylpiperazine, also referred to as BZP, to the list of Schedule I drugs. The amendment was requested by the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association. The Association representative testified that BZP is a synthetic drug similar to Ecstasy and has become an increasingly abused drug in Kansas. The drug is ten to twenty times more potent than amphetamine. BZP is included on the federal Schedule I list of controlled substances.

There were no opponents of the bill.

The initial fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that the Kansas Sentencing Commission cannot determine the effect of the bill on the state's inmate population. The Board of Pharmacy states that the bill would have no fiscal effect. A revised fiscal note was requested by the Committee Chairman.