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HOUSE BILL NO. 31

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled December 8, 2005

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-248 of the Code of Virginia, relating to sale of methamphetamine precursor drugs.

Patron—Phillips

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-248 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-248. Manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing or possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance prohibited; penalties.

A. Except as authorized in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, give, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance.

B. In determining whether any person intends to manufacture, sell, give or distribute an imitation controlled substance, the court may consider, in addition to all other relevant evidence, whether any distribution or attempted distribution of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever included an exchange of or a demand for money or other property as consideration, and, if so, whether the amount of such consideration was substantially greater than the reasonable value of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever, considering the actual chemical composition of such pill, capsule, tablet or substance in any other form whatsoever and, where applicable, the price at which over-the-counter substances of like chemical composition sell.

C. Except as provided in subsection C1, any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II shall upon conviction be imprisoned for not less than five nor more than 40 years and fined not more than \$500,000. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of such a violation, any such person may, in the discretion of the court or jury imposing the sentence, be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for any period not less than five years and be fined not more than \$500,000.

When a person is convicted of a third or subsequent offense under this subsection and it is alleged in the warrant, indictment or information that he has been before convicted of two or more such offenses or of substantially similar offenses in any other jurisdiction which offenses would be felonies if committed in the Commonwealth and such prior convictions occurred before the date of the offense alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for a period of not less than five years, three years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence and he shall be fined not more than \$500,000.

C1. Any person who violates this section with respect to the manufacturing of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or less than 200 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not less than 10 nor more than 40 years and fined not more than \$500,000. Upon a second conviction of such a violation, any such person may, in the discretion of the court or jury imposing the sentence, be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for any period not less than 10 years, and be fined not more than \$500,000. When a person is convicted of a third or subsequent offense under this subsection and it is alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information that he has been previously convicted of two or more such offenses or of substantially similar offenses in any other jurisdiction, which offenses would be felonies if committed in the Commonwealth and such prior convictions occurred before the date of the offense alleged in the warrant, indictment, or information, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for a period not less than 10 years, three years of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served consecutively with any other sentence and he shall be fined not more than \$500,000. Upon conviction, in addition to any other punishment, a person found guilty of this offense shall be ordered by the court to make restitution, as the court deems appropriate, to any innocent property owner whose property is damaged, destroyed, or otherwise rendered unusable as a result of such methamphetamine production. This restitution may include the person's or his estate's estimated or actual expenses associated with cleanup, removal, or repair of the affected property.

D. If such person proves that he gave, distributed or possessed with intent to give or distribute a

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59 controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II only as an accommodation to another individual who
60 is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility or state correctional
61 facility as defined in § 53.1-1 or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit
62 thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient or intended recipient of
63 the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he
64 shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

65 E. If the violation of the provisions of this article consists of the filling by a pharmacist of the
66 prescription of a person authorized under this article to issue the same, which prescription has not been
67 received in writing by the pharmacist prior to the filling thereof, and such written prescription is in fact
68 received by the pharmacist within one week of the time of filling the same, or if such violation consists
69 of a request by such authorized person for the filling by a pharmacist of a prescription which has not
70 been received in writing by the pharmacist and such prescription is, in fact, written at the time of such
71 request and delivered to the pharmacist within one week thereof, either such offense shall constitute a
72 Class 4 misdemeanor.

73 E1. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule
74 III except for an anabolic steroid classified in Schedule III, constituting a violation of § 18.2-248.5, shall
75 be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

76 E2. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule
77 IV shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony.

78 E3. Any person who proves that he gave, distributed or possessed with the intent to give or distribute
79 a controlled substance classified in Schedule III or IV, except for an anabolic steroid classified in
80 Schedule III, constituting a violation of § 18.2-248.5, only as an accommodation to another individual
81 who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility or state correctional
82 facility as defined in § 53.1-1 or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with the intent to profit
83 thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient or intended recipient of
84 the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, is
85 guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

86 F. Any person who violates this section with respect to a controlled substance classified in Schedule
87 V or an imitation controlled substance which imitates a controlled substance classified in Schedule V,
88 shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

89 G. Any person who violates this section with respect to an imitation controlled substance which
90 imitates a controlled substance classified in Schedule I, II, III or IV shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony.
91 In any prosecution brought under this subsection, it is not a defense to a violation of this subsection that
92 the defendant believed the imitation controlled substance to actually be a controlled substance.

93 H. Any person who manufactures, sells, gives, distributes or possesses with the intent to manufacture,
94 sell, give or distribute the following:

95 1. 1.0 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

96 2. 5.0 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

97 a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and
98 derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

99 b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

100 c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

101 d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances
102 referred to in subdivisions a through c;

103 3. 2.5 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains
104 cocaine base;

105 4. 100 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or

106 5. 100 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or 200 grams or
107 more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers,
108 or salts of its isomers shall be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and
109 imprisonment for 20 years to life, 20 years of which shall be a mandatory minimum sentence. Such
110 mandatory minimum sentence shall not be applicable if the court finds that (i) the person does not have
111 a prior conviction for an offense listed in subsection C of § 17.1-805; (ii) the person did not use
112 violence or credible threats of violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection
113 with the offense or induce another participant in the offense to do so; (iii) the offense did not result in
114 death or serious bodily injury to any person; (iv) the person was not an organizer, leader, manager, or
115 supervisor of others in the offense, and was not engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise as defined
116 in subsection I of this section; and (v) not later than the time of the sentencing hearing, the person has
117 truthfully provided to the Commonwealth all information and evidence the person has concerning the
118 offense or offenses that were part of the same course of conduct or of a common scheme or plan, but
119 the fact that the person has no relevant or useful other information to provide or that the Commonwealth
120 already is aware of the information shall not preclude a determination by the court that the defendant

has complied with this requirement.

H1. Any person who was the principal or one of several principal administrators, organizers or leaders of a continuing criminal enterprise shall be guilty of a felony if (i) the enterprise received at least \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 in gross receipts during any 12-month period of its existence from the manufacture, importation, or distribution of heroin or cocaine or ecgonine or methamphetamine or the derivatives, salts, isomers, or salts of isomers thereof or marijuana or (ii) the person engaged in the enterprise to manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute the following during any 12-month period of its existence:

1. At least 1.0 kilograms but less than 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

2. At least 5.0 kilograms but less than 10 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in subdivisions a through c;

3. At least 2.5 kilograms but less than 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains cocaine base;

4. At least 100 kilograms but less than 250 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or

5. At least 100 grams but less than 250 grams of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or at least 200 grams but less than 1.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers.

A conviction under this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and imprisonment for 20 years to life, 20 years of which shall be a mandatory minimum sentence.

H2. Any person who was the principal or one of several principal administrators, organizers or leaders of a continuing criminal enterprise if (i) the enterprise received \$250,000 or more in gross receipts during any 12-month period of its existence from the manufacture, importation, or distribution of heroin or cocaine or ecgonine or methamphetamine or the derivatives, salts, isomers, or salts of isomers thereof or marijuana or (ii) the person engaged in the enterprise to manufacture, sell, give, distribute or possess with the intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute the following during any 12-month period of its existence:

1. At least 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

2. At least 10 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

a. Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivatives of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

b. Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

c. Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

d. Any compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in subdivisions a through c;

3. At least 5.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance described in subdivision 2 which contains cocaine base;

4. At least 250 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; or

5. At least 250 grams of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers or at least 1.0 kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers shall be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1 million and imprisonment for life, which shall be served with no suspension in whole or in part. Such punishment shall be made to run consecutively with any other sentence. However, the court may impose a mandatory minimum sentence of 40 years if the court finds that the defendant substantially cooperated with law-enforcement authorities.

I. For purposes of this section, a person is engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise if (i) he violates any provision of this section, the punishment for which is a felony and either (ii) such violation is a part of a continuing series of violations of this section which are undertaken by such person in concert with five or more other persons with respect to whom such person occupies a position of organizer, a supervisory position, or any other position of management, and from which such person obtains substantial income or resources or (iii) such violation is committed, with respect to methamphetamine or other controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II, for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang as defined in § 18.2-46.1.

J. Except as authorized in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), any person who possesses any

182 two or more different substances listed below with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine,
183 methcathinone or amphetamine is guilty of a Class 6 felony: liquified ammonia gas, ether,
184 hypophosphorusacid solutions, hypophosphite salts, hydrochloric acid, iodine crystals or tincture of
185 iodine, phenylacetone, phenylacetic acid, red phosphorus, methylamine, methyl formamide, lithium
186 metal, sodium metal, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, potassium dichromate, sodium dichromate,
187 potassium permanganate, chromium trioxide, methylbenzene, methamphetamine precursor drugs,
188 trichloroethane, or 2-propanone.

189 *Jl. No person shall offer methamphetamine precursor drugs for retail sale except from behind the*
190 *counter, upon request by the purchaser to the person authorized by the owner of the retail outlet to*
191 *make the sale. The seller shall require that the purchaser provide picture identification and shall make a*
192 *written record of the name of the purchaser and the date of purchase. A violation of this subsection is*
193 *punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor.*

194 K. The term "methamphetamine precursor drug," when used in this article, means a drug or product
195 containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine or any of their salts, optical isomers, or
196 salts of optical isomers.