



November 21, 2022

The Honorable Dade Phelan
Speaker House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 2W.13
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Speaker Phelan:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code Section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) started scheduling classes of chemical compounds rather than individual chemicals several years ago. This action helps to address altered versions of substances without having to specifically list it in the schedule. DEA scheduling also changed to include broader categories of substances that may include other related substances. Because of these changes, the DEA is able to publish amendments more quickly; therefore, DSHS has not needed to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

If you would like more information or have questions, Timothy Stevenson, DVM, PhD, Associate Commissioner for the Consumer Protection Division, serves as lead staff on this issue. He can be reached at Timothy.Stevenson@dshs.texas.gov or at 512-834-6660.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.".

Jennifer Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.



November 21, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code Section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Shuford, MD".

Jennifer Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.



November 21, 2022

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lt. Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Lt. Governor Patrick:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code Section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

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Sincerely,


Jennifer Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.



November 21, 2022

The Honorable John Whitmire
Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Whitmire:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code Section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) started scheduling classes of chemical compounds rather than individual chemicals several years ago. This action helps to address altered versions of substances without having to specifically list it in the schedule. DEA scheduling also changed to include broader categories of substances that may include other related substances. Because of these changes, the DEA is able to publish amendments more quickly; therefore, DSHS has not needed to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

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Sincerely,



Jennifer Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.



November 21, 2022

The Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Kolkhorst:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code Section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) started scheduling classes of chemical compounds rather than individual chemicals several years ago. This action helps to address altered versions of substances without having to specifically list it in the schedule. DEA scheduling also changed to include broader categories of substances that may include other related substances. Because of these changes, the DEA is able to publish amendments more quickly; therefore, DSHS has not needed to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

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November 21, 2022

The Honorable Stephanie Klick
Chair, House Committee on Public Health
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chair Klick:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) started scheduling classes of chemical compounds rather than individual chemicals several years ago. This action helps to address altered versions of substances without having to specifically list it in the schedule. DEA scheduling also changed to include broader categories of substances that may include other related substances. Because of these changes, the DEA is able to publish amendments more quickly; therefore, DSHS has not needed to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Nicole Collier
Chair, House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence
P.O. Box 2910 Austin,
Texas 78768

Dear Chair Collier:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two years.

Health and Safety Code Section 481.034 requires DSHS to schedule a substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2021, DSHS has finalized 47 scheduling actions subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The DEA started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals several years ago. Recent amendments have been those substances that have been altered sufficiently to fall outside existing scheduling classes. Control of the newer substances can now extend to related compounds. The DEA is able to publish amendments more quickly; therefore, DSHS has not needed to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

If you would like more information, or have questions, Timothy Stevenson, DVM, PhD, Associate Commissioner for the Consumer Protection Division, serves as lead staff on this issue. He can be reached at Timothy.Stevenson@dshs.texas.gov or at 512-834-6660.

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