

# HB0087S01 compared with HB0087

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0087 but was omitted in HB0087S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0087 but was inserted into HB0087S01

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## Drug Trafficking Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Matthew H. Gwynn

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### LONG TITLE

#### General Description:

This bill addresses the trafficking of certain controlled substances.

#### Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates a criminal offense of trafficking of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance; and
- makes conforming and technical changes.

#### Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

None

#### AMENDS:

**58-37-8**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 105

#### ENACTS:

**58-37-8.1**, Utah Code Annotated 1953, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

HB0087

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

21 Section 1. Section **58-37-8** is amended to read:

22 **58-37-8. Prohibited acts -- Penalties.**

23 (1) Prohibited acts A -- Penalties and reporting:

24 (a) Except as authorized by this chapter, and under circumstances not amounting to an offense  
described in Section 58-37-8.1, trafficking of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance, it is unlawful  
for a person to knowingly and intentionally:

27 (i) produce, manufacture, or dispense, or to possess with intent to produce, manufacture, or dispense, a  
controlled or counterfeit substance;

29 (ii) distribute a controlled or counterfeit substance, or to agree, consent, offer, or arrange to distribute a  
controlled or counterfeit substance;

31 (iii) possess a controlled or counterfeit substance with intent to distribute; or

32 (iv) engage in a continuing criminal enterprise where:

33 (A) the person participates, directs, or engages in conduct that results in a violation of this chapter,  
Chapter 37a, Utah Drug Paraphernalia Act, Chapter 37b, Imitation Controlled Substances Act,  
Chapter 37c, Utah Controlled Substance Precursor Act, or Chapter 37d, Clandestine Drug Lab Act,  
that is a felony; and

38 (B) the violation is a part of a continuing series of two or more violations of this chapter, Chapter 37a,  
Utah Drug Paraphernalia Act, Chapter 37b, Imitation Controlled Substances Act, Chapter 37c,  
Utah Controlled Substance Precursor Act, or Chapter 37d, Clandestine Drug Lab Act, on separate  
occasions that are undertaken in concert with five or more persons with respect to whom the person  
occupies a position of organizer, supervisor, or any other position of management.

45 (b) A person convicted of violating Subsection (1)(a) with respect to:

46 (i) a substance or a counterfeit of a substance classified in Schedule I or II, a controlled substance  
analog, or gammahydroxybutyric acid as listed in Schedule III is guilty of a second degree  
felony, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 15 years, and upon a second or subsequent  
conviction is guilty of a first degree felony;

51 (ii) a substance or a counterfeit of a substance classified in Schedule III or IV, or marijuana, or a  
substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2 is guilty of a third degree felony, and upon a second or  
subsequent conviction is guilty of a second degree felony; or

55 (iii) a substance or a counterfeit of a substance classified in Schedule V is guilty of a class A  
misdemeanor and upon a second or subsequent conviction is guilty of a third degree felony.

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 58 (c)
- . (i) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(c)(ii), a person who has been convicted of a violation of Subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (iii) may be sentenced to imprisonment for an indeterminate term as described in Subsection (1)(b) and Title 76, Chapter 3, Punishments.
- 62 (ii) The court shall impose an indeterminate prison term for a person who has been convicted of a violation of Subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (iii) that is a first degree felony or a second degree felony if the trier of fact finds beyond a reasonable doubt that, during the commission or furtherance of the violation, the person intentionally or knowingly:
- 67 (A) used, drew, or exhibited a dangerous weapon, as that term is defined in Section 76-10-501, that is not a firearm, in an angry, threatening, intimidating, or coercive manner;
- 70 (B) used a firearm or had a firearm readily accessible for immediate use, as those terms are defined in Section 76-10-501; or
- 72 (C) distributed a firearm, as that term is defined in Section 76-10-501, or possessed a firearm with intent to distribute the firearm.
- 74 (iii) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(c)(ii), a court may suspend the indeterminate prison term for a person convicted under Subsection (1)(c)(ii) if the court:
- 76 (A) details on the record the reasons why it is in the interests of justice not to impose the indeterminate prison term;
- 78 (B) makes a finding on the record that the person does not pose a significant safety risk to the public; and
- 80 (C) orders the person to complete the terms and conditions of supervised probation provided by the Department of Corrections.
- 82 (d)
- . (i) A person convicted of violating Subsection (1)(a)(iv) is guilty of a first degree felony punishable by imprisonment for an indeterminate term of not less than:
- 84 (A) seven years and which may be for life; or
- 85 (B) 15 years and which may be for life if the trier of fact determined that the defendant knew or reasonably should have known that any subordinate under Subsection (1)(a)(iv)(B) was under 18 years old.
- 88 (ii) Imposition or execution of the sentence may not be suspended, and the person is not eligible for probation.

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 90 (iii) Subsection (1)(d)(i)(B) does not apply to any defendant who, at the time of the offense, was under  
18 years old.
- 92 (e) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the Division of Professional Licensing the  
name, case number, date of conviction, and if known, the date of birth of each person convicted of  
violating Subsection (1)(a).
- 95 (2) Prohibited acts B -- Penalties and reporting:
- 96 (a) It is unlawful:
- 97 (i) for a person knowingly and intentionally to possess or use a controlled substance analog or a  
controlled substance, unless it was obtained under a valid prescription or order, directly from  
a practitioner while acting in the course of the person's professional practice, or as otherwise  
authorized by this chapter;
- 101 (ii) for an owner, tenant, licensee, or person in control of a building, room, tenement, vehicle, boat,  
aircraft, or other place knowingly and intentionally to permit them to be occupied by persons  
unlawfully possessing, using, or distributing controlled substances in any of those locations; or
- 105 (iii) for a person knowingly and intentionally to possess an altered or forged prescription or written  
order for a controlled substance.
- 107 (b) A person convicted of violating Subsection (2)(a)(i) with respect to:
- 108 (i) marijuana, if the amount is 100 pounds or more, is guilty of a second degree felony; or
- 110 (ii) a substance classified in Schedule I or II, or a controlled substance analog, is guilty of a class A  
misdemeanor on a first or second conviction, and on a third or subsequent conviction if each prior  
offense was committed within seven years before the date of the offense upon which the current  
conviction is based is guilty of a third degree felony.
- 115 (c) Upon a person's conviction of a violation of this Subsection (2) subsequent to a conviction under  
Subsection (1)(a), that person shall be sentenced to a one degree greater penalty than provided in  
this Subsection (2).
- 118 (d) A person who violates Subsection (2)(a)(i) with respect to all other controlled substances not  
included in Subsection (2)(b)(i) or (ii), including a substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2, or  
marijuana, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- 121 (i) Upon a third conviction the person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor, if each prior offense was  
committed within seven years before the date of the offense upon which the current conviction is  
based.

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 124 (ii) Upon a fourth or subsequent conviction the person is guilty of a third degree felony if each prior offense was committed within seven years before the date of the offense upon which the current conviction is based.
- 127 (e) A person convicted of violating Subsection (2)(a)(i) while inside the exterior boundaries of property occupied by a correctional facility as defined in Section 64-13-1 or a public jail or other place of confinement shall be sentenced to a penalty one degree greater than provided in Subsection (2)(b), and if the conviction is with respect to controlled substances as listed in:
- 132 (i) Subsection (2)(b), the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for an indeterminate term as provided by law, and:
- 134 (A) the court shall additionally sentence the person convicted to a term of one year to run consecutively and not concurrently; and
- 136 (B) the court may additionally sentence the person convicted for an indeterminate term not to exceed five years to run consecutively and not concurrently; and
- 138 (ii) Subsection (2)(d), the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for an indeterminate term as provided by law, and the court shall additionally sentence the person convicted to a term of six months to run consecutively and not concurrently.
- 142 (f) A person convicted of violating Subsection (2)(a)(ii) or (iii) is:
- 143 (i) on a first conviction, guilty of a class B misdemeanor;
- 144 (ii) on a second conviction, guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and
- 145 (iii) on a third or subsequent conviction, guilty of a third degree felony.
- 146 (g) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the Division of Professional Licensing the name, case number, date of conviction, and if known, the date of birth of each person convicted of violating Subsection (2)(a).
- 149 (3) Prohibited acts C -- Penalties:
- 150 (a) It is unlawful for a person knowingly and intentionally:
- 151 (i) to use in the course of the manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance a license number which is fictitious, revoked, suspended, or issued to another person or, for the purpose of obtaining a controlled substance, to assume the title of, or represent oneself to be, a manufacturer, wholesaler, apothecary, physician, dentist, veterinarian, or other authorized person;
- 156 (ii) to acquire or obtain possession of, to procure or attempt to procure the administration of, to obtain a prescription for, to prescribe or dispense to a person known to be attempting to acquire or obtain

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

possession of, or to procure the administration of a controlled substance by misrepresentation or failure by the person to disclose receiving a controlled substance from another source, fraud, forgery, deception, subterfuge, alteration of a prescription or written order for a controlled substance, or the use of a false name or address;

163 (iii) to make a false or forged prescription or written order for a controlled substance, or to utter the same, or to alter a prescription or written order issued or written under the terms of this chapter; or

166 (iv) to make, distribute, or possess a punch, die, plate, stone, or other thing designed to print, imprint, or reproduce the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device of another or any likeness of any of the foregoing upon any drug or container or labeling so as to render a drug a counterfeit controlled substance.

171 (b)

(i) A first or second conviction under Subsection (3)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii) is a class A misdemeanor.

173 (ii) A third or subsequent conviction under Subsection (3)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii) is a third degree felony.

175 (c) A violation of Subsection (3)(a)(iv) is a third degree felony.

176 (4) Prohibited acts D -- Penalties:

177 (a) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, a person not authorized under this chapter who commits any act that is unlawful under Subsection (1)(a) or Section 58-37b-4 is upon conviction subject to the penalties and classifications under this Subsection (4) if the trier of fact finds the act is committed:

181 (i) in a public or private elementary or secondary school or on the grounds of any of those schools during the hours of 6 a.m. through 10 p.m.;

183 (ii) in a public or private vocational school or postsecondary institution or on the grounds of any of those schools or institutions during the hours of 6 a.m. through 10 p.m.;

186 (iii) in or on the grounds of a preschool or child-care facility during the preschool's or facility's hours of operation;

188 (iv) in a public park, amusement park, arcade, or recreation center when the public or amusement park, arcade, or recreation center is open to the public;

190 (v) in or on the grounds of a house of worship as defined in Section 76-10-501;

191 (vi) in or on the grounds of a library when the library is open to the public;

192 (vii) within an area that is within 100 feet of any structure, facility, or grounds included in Subsections (4)(a)(i) through (vi);

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 194 (viii) in the presence of a person younger than 18 years old, regardless of where the act occurs; or  
196 (ix) for the purpose of facilitating, arranging, or causing the transport, delivery, or distribution of a  
substance in violation of this section to an inmate or on the grounds of a correctional facility as  
defined in Section 76-8-311.3.
- 199 (b)
- . (i) A person convicted under this Subsection (4) is guilty of a first degree felony and shall be  
imprisoned for a term of not less than five years if the penalty that would otherwise have been  
established but for this Subsection (4) would have been a first degree felony.
- 203 (ii) Imposition or execution of the sentence may not be suspended, and the person is not eligible for  
probation.
- 205 (c) If the classification that would otherwise have been established would have been less than a first  
degree felony but for this Subsection (4), a person convicted under this Subsection (4) is guilty of  
one degree more than the maximum penalty prescribed for that offense.
- 209 (d)
- . (i) If the violation is of Subsection (4)(a)(ix):
- 210 (A) the person may be sentenced to imprisonment for an indeterminate term as provided by law,  
and the court shall additionally sentence the person convicted for a term of one year to run  
consecutively and not concurrently; and
- 213 (B) the court may additionally sentence the person convicted for an indeterminate term not to  
exceed five years to run consecutively and not concurrently; and
- 215 (ii) the penalties under this Subsection (4)(d) apply also to a person who, acting with the mental state  
required for the commission of an offense, directly or indirectly solicits, requests, commands,  
coerces, encourages, or intentionally aids another person to commit a violation of Subsection (4)(a)  
(ix).
- 219 (e) It is not a defense to a prosecution under this Subsection (4) that:
- 220 (i) the actor mistakenly believed the individual to be 18 years old or older at the time of the offense or  
was unaware of the individual's true age; or
- 222 (ii) the actor mistakenly believed that the location where the act occurred was not as described in  
Subsection (4)(a) or was unaware that the location where the act occurred was as described in  
Subsection (4)(a).
- 225 (5) A violation of this chapter for which no penalty is specified is a class B misdemeanor.

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 226 (6)
- . (a) For purposes of penalty enhancement under Subsections (1) and (2), a plea of guilty or no contest to a violation or attempted violation of this section or a plea which is held in abeyance under Title 77, Chapter 2a, Pleas in Abeyance, is the equivalent of a conviction, even if the charge has been subsequently reduced or dismissed in accordance with the plea in abeyance agreement.
- 231 (b) A prior conviction used for a penalty enhancement under Subsection (2) shall be a conviction that is:
- 233 (i) from a separate criminal episode than the current charge; and
- 234 (ii) from a conviction that is separate from any other conviction used to enhance the current charge.
- 236 (7) A person may be charged and sentenced for a violation of this section, notwithstanding a charge and sentence for a violation of any other section of this chapter.
- 238 (8)
- . (a) A penalty imposed for violation of this section is in addition to, and not in lieu of, a civil or administrative penalty or sanction authorized by law.
- 240 (b) When a violation of this chapter violates a federal law or the law of another state, conviction or acquittal under federal law or the law of another state for the same act is a bar to prosecution in this state.
- 243 (9) In any prosecution for a violation of this chapter, evidence or proof that shows a person or persons produced, manufactured, possessed, distributed, or dispensed a controlled substance or substances, is prima facie evidence that the person or persons did so with knowledge of the character of the substance or substances.
- 247 (10) This section does not prohibit a veterinarian, in good faith and in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice only and not for humans, from prescribing, dispensing, or administering controlled substances or from causing the substances to be administered by an assistant or orderly under the veterinarian's direction and supervision.
- 251 (11) Civil or criminal liability may not be imposed under this section on:
- 252 (a) a person registered under this chapter who manufactures, distributes, or possesses an imitation controlled substance for use as a placebo or investigational new drug by a registered practitioner in the ordinary course of professional practice or research;
- 255 (b) a law enforcement officer acting in the course and legitimate scope of the officer's employment; or
- 257 (c) a healthcare facility, substance use harm reduction services program, or drug addiction treatment facility that temporarily possesses a controlled or counterfeit substance to conduct a test or analysis



## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

on the controlled or counterfeit substance to identify or analyze the strength, effectiveness, or purity of the substance for a public health or safety reason.

262 (12)

. (a) Civil or criminal liability may not be imposed under this section on any Indian, as defined in Section 58-37-2, who uses, possesses, or transports peyote for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion as defined in Section 58-37-2.

266 (b) In a prosecution alleging violation of this section regarding peyote as defined in Section 58-37-4, it is an affirmative defense that the peyote was used, possessed, or transported by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion.

270 (c)

. (i) The defendant shall provide written notice of intent to claim an affirmative defense under this Subsection (12) as soon as practicable, but not later than 10 days before trial.

273 (ii) The notice shall include the specific claims of the affirmative defense.

274 (iii) The court may waive the notice requirement in the interest of justice for good cause shown, if the prosecutor is not unfairly prejudiced by the lack of timely notice.

277 (d) The defendant shall establish the affirmative defense under this Subsection (12) by a preponderance of the evidence. If the defense is established, it is a complete defense to the charges.

280 (13)

. (a) It is an affirmative defense that the person produced, possessed, or administered a controlled substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2 if the person was:

282 (i) engaged in medical research; and

283 (ii) a holder of a valid license to possess controlled substances under Section 58-37-6.

284 (b) It is not a defense under Subsection (13)(a) that the person prescribed or dispensed a controlled substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2.

286 (14) It is an affirmative defense that the person possessed, in the person's body, a controlled substance listed in Section 58-37-4.2 if:

288 (a) the person was the subject of medical research conducted by a holder of a valid license to possess controlled substances under Section 58-37-6; and

290 (b) the substance was administered to the person by the medical researcher.

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## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

(15) The application of any increase in penalty under this section to a violation of Subsection (2)(a) (i) may not result in any greater penalty than a second degree felony. [-]This Subsection (15) takes precedence over any conflicting provision of this section.

294 (16)

(a) It is an affirmative defense to an allegation of the commission of an offense listed in Subsection (16)

(b) that the person or bystander:

296 (i) reasonably believes that the person or another person is experiencing an overdose event due to the ingestion, injection, inhalation, or other introduction into the human body of a controlled substance or other substance;

299 (ii) reports, or assists a person who reports, in good faith the overdose event to a medical provider, an emergency medical service provider as defined in Section 53-2d-101, a law enforcement officer, a 911 emergency call system, or an emergency dispatch system, or the person is the subject of a report made under this Subsection (16);

304 (iii) provides in the report under Subsection (16)(a)(ii) a functional description of the actual location of the overdose event that facilitates responding to the person experiencing the overdose event;

307 (iv) remains at the location of the person experiencing the overdose event until a responding law enforcement officer or emergency medical service provider arrives, or remains at the medical care facility where the person experiencing an overdose event is located until a responding law enforcement officer arrives;

311 (v) cooperates with the responding medical provider, emergency medical service provider, and law enforcement officer, including providing information regarding the person experiencing the overdose event and any substances the person may have injected, inhaled, or otherwise introduced into the person's body; and

315 (vi) is alleged to have committed the offense in the same course of events from which the reported overdose arose.

317 (b) The offenses referred to in Subsection (16)(a) are:

318 (i) the possession or use of less than 16 ounces of marijuana;

319 (ii) the possession or use of a scheduled or listed controlled substance other than marijuana; and

321 (iii) any violation of Chapter 37a, Utah Drug Paraphernalia Act, or Chapter 37b, Imitation Controlled Substances Act.

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- 323 (c) As used in this Subsection (16) and in Section 76-3-203.11, "good faith" does not include seeking  
medical assistance under this section during the course of a law enforcement agency's execution of a  
search warrant, execution of an arrest warrant, or other lawful search.
- 327 (17) If any provision of this chapter, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstances,  
is held invalid, the remainder of this chapter shall be given effect without the invalid provision or  
application.
- 330 (18) A legislative body of a political subdivision may not enact an ordinance that is less restrictive than  
any provision of this chapter.
- 332 (19) If a minor who is under 18 years old is found by a court to have violated this section or Subsection  
76-5-102.1(2)(b) or 76-5-207(2)(b), the court may order the minor to complete:
- 335 (a) a screening as defined in Section 41-6a-501;
- 336 (b) an assessment as defined in Section 41-6a-501 if the screening indicates an assessment to be  
appropriate; and
- 338 (c) an educational series as defined in Section 41-6a-501 or substance use disorder treatment as  
indicated by an assessment.
- 340 Section 2 is enacted to read:
- 341 **58-37-8.1. Trafficking of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance.**
- 342 (1) As used in this section:
- 343 (a) "Fentanyl-related substance" means a derivative or analog of fentanyl including:
- 344 (i) carfentanil;
- 345 (ii) sufentanil;
- 346 (iii) alfentanil; or
- 347 (iv) a fentanyl-related substance that is a controlled substance as described in Section 58-37-3.
- 349 (b) "Trafficking amount of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance" means 100 grams or more of any  
composition or mixture, including pills, that contains any quantity of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related  
substance.
- 352 (2) A person commits trafficking of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance if the person intentionally:
- 354 (a) produces, manufactures, or dispenses a trafficking amount of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related  
substance;
- 356 (b) distributes a trafficking amount of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance;
- 357

## HB0087 compared with HB0087S01

- (c) agrees, consents, offers, or arranges to distribute a trafficking amount of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance; or
- 359 (d) possesses a trafficking amount of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance with the intent to distribute the fentanyl or fentanyl-related substance.
- 361 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree felony.
- 362 (4) Except as provided in Subsection (5) or (6), a court may not grant probation, suspend the execution or imposition of the sentence, ~~or~~ order hospitalization, or enter a judgment for a lower category of offense under Section 76-3-402, if the effect of which would in any way shorten the person's required indeterminate prison sentence, when:
- 366 (a) sentencing a person for a violation described in Subsection (3);
- 367 (b) sentencing a person for a conviction of an attempt to commit trafficking of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related substance in accordance with Section 76-4-102; or
- 369 (c) sentencing a person who has had the first degree felony classified in Subsection (3) reduced one degree by a prosecuting attorney in accordance with Section 77-2-2.3.
- 371 (5) A court may suspend the execution or imposition of a prison sentence under Subsection (4) if the court:
- 373 (a) makes a finding on the record that:
- 374 (i) details why it is in the interests of justice not to execute or impose the prison sentence; and
- 376 (ii) the actor does not pose a significant safety risk to the general public; and
- 377 (b) orders:
- 378 (i) the actor to complete a minimum of at least 48 months of probation; and
- 377 ~~(b)(ii) orders the actor to complete the terms and conditions of probation that is supervised by~~ the Division of Adult Probation and Parole to supervise the entire term of probation described in Subsection (5)(b)(i).
- 379 (6) Subsection (4) does not apply if the sentencing court finds that the person:
- 380 (a) was under 18 years old at the time of the offense; and
- 381 (b) could have been adjudicated in the juvenile court but for the delayed reporting or delayed filing of the information.

### 385 Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

1-17-25 2:05 PM