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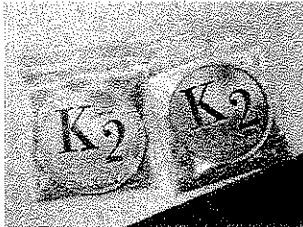
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State Comment

Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2)

Posted October 5, 2010



NCSL Resources Related to Synthetic Cannabinoids

- State Laws Related to Synthetic Cannabinoids
- State Legislation on Synthetic Cannabinoids Pending on October 5, 2010

Synthetic Cannabinoids

Synthetic cannabinoids are chemically engineered substances, similar to THC—the active ingredient in marijuana—that, when smoked or ingested, can produce a high similar to marijuana. Initially developed for research related to treatment of pain and the effects of cannabis on the brain, these substances have recently become a popular alternative to marijuana. When sprayed onto dried herbs, the substances are marketed under names such as “Spice,” “K2” or “Genie” and sold legally in local convenience stores or on the Internet.

The [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) cautions that little research has been conducted on their effects on humans. As of September 2010, the [American Association of Poison Control Centers](#) documented more than 1,500 calls to poison control centers for symptoms such as racing heartbeat, nausea and elevated blood pressure following use of synthetic cannabinoid products. Only 14 such calls were received in 2009.

State Action

State lawmakers are acting quickly to curb the growing availability and use of these substances by passing laws to designate certain synthetic cannabinoids as schedule I controlled substances and outlaw their possession or distribution.

Because there are at least seven documented categories of synthetic cannabinoids, state laws identify specific types or specific chemical substances commonly found in them.

Synthetic Cannabinoids Listed in Statute	
Chemical Substance	Trade Name (if applicable)
1-(2-(4-(morpholinyl)ethyl))-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole	JWH-200
1-Butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole	JWH-073
1-hexyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole	JWH-019
1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole	JWH-018
1-pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole	JWH-250
1-pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl)indole	JWH-398
2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol	CP 47, 497 and homologues

(2-methyl-1-propyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalenyl-methanone	JWH-015
(6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol	HU-210
Dexanabinol	HU-211
Dexanabinol, (6aS,10aS)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol	HU-211

Federal Action

As of September 2010, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) identified five "spice cannabinoids"—CP 47, 497 and homologues; HU-210; HU-211; JWH-018; and JWH-073—as drugs of concern. Except for HU-210, no synthetic cannabinoids currently are controlled under the federal Controlled Substances Act. The DEA also reports that, except for HU-210, no studies have been conducted on the effects of these drugs on humans.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

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Synthetic Cannabinoid State Laws

(Updated: October 5, 2010)

State	Related Bill Numbers	Classified as a Schedule I Controlled Substance	Crimes and Penalties	Chemical Substances*
Alabama	HB 697 (2010)	No	Subject to the same penalties as possession of marijuana in the first and second degree.	HU-210; JWH-018; and JWH-073.
Georgia	HB 1309 (2010)	Yes	Not Specified	CP 47, 497 and homologues; HU-210; and JWH-018.
Illinois	HB 6459 (2010)	Yes	Not Specified	JWH-018 and JWH-073.
Kansas	HB 2411 (2010)	Yes	Not Specified	HU-210; JWH-018; and JWH-073.
Kentucky	HB 265 (2010)	Yes	Possession of synthetic cannabinoid is a class B misdemeanor. Trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid and manufacturing synthetic cannabinoids are class A misdemeanors. Subject to the same penalties and exclusions as marijuana for certain controlled substances crimes.	Any chemical compound that contains CP 47, 497 and homologues; dexanabinol; JWH-018; or JWH-073. Excludes synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, are approved by the USDA and are legally dispensed.

State	Related Bill Numbers	Classified as a Schedule I Controlled Substance	Crimes and Penalties	Chemical Substances*
Louisiana	HB 121 (2010), HB 173 (2010), and SB 37 (2010)	Yes	Subject to the same penalties as possession, distribution and possession with intent to distribute of marijuana.	CP 47, 497 and homologues; HU-210; JWH-018; and JWH-073.
Michigan	HB 6038 (2010)	No	Not Specified	CP 47,497; HU-210; JWH-015; JWH-018; JWH-073; JWH-200; and JWH-250.
Mississippi	SB 2004 (2010)	Yes	Subject to the same penalties and exclusions as marijuana for certain controlled substances crimes.	CP-47, 497 and homologues; HU-210; JWH-018; JWH-019; JWH-073; JWH-200; JWH-250; and JWH-398.
Missouri	HB 1472 (2010)	Yes	Possession of 35 grams or less of synthetic cannabinoids is a class A misdemeanor, and possession of more than 35 grams is a class C felony.	HU-211; Indole or JWH-018; Indole or JWH-073; and Phenol CP 47, 497 and homologues.
Tennessee	SB 2982 (2010)	No	Subject to the same penalties as producing, manufacturing, distributing, possessing or possessing with intent to produce, manufacture or distribute salvia divinorium.	HU-210; HU-211; JWH-018; and JWH-073. Excludes synthetic cannabinoids lawfully prescribed or substances approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

*Synthetic Cannabinoid Chemical Substances and Trade Names:

- 1-(2-(4-(morpholinyl)ethyl))-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole [trade name: JWH-200]
- 1-Butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole [trade name: JWH-073]
- 1-hexyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole [trade name: JWH-019]
- 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole [trade name: JWH-018]
- 1-pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole [trade name: JWH-250]
- 1-pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl)indole [trade name: JWH-398]
- 2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol [trade name: CP 47, 497 and homologues]



- [(6*aR*,10*aR*)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6*a*,7,10,10*a*-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol)] [**trade name: HU-210**]
- (2-methyl-1-propyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalenyl-methanone [**trade name: JWH-015**]
- Dexanabinol
- dexanabinol, (6*aS*,10*aS*)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6*a*,7,10,10*a*-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol [**trade name: HU-211**]

NCSL's Criminal Justice Program is in Denver, Colo., at (303) 364-7700 or ci-info@ncsl.org. Statutes and bills may be edited or summarized; full text can be retrieved from [NCSL's website](#).



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

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State Legislation on Synthetic Cannabinoids
Pending on October 5, 2010

2010 PENDING LEGISLATION

New Jersey AB 2644

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018 and JWH-073 to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs.

New York SB 7081

Defines synthetic cannabinoid to include CP 47, 497; HU-210; HU-211; JWH-018; and JWH-073. Prohibits sale or distribution of any product containing a synthetic cannabinoid. Establishes a defense for FDA-approved over-the-counter drugs or lack of knowledge that the product contained a synthetic cannabinoid.

New York AB 10439

Adds HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073 and the components of synthetic ecstasy 1-(3-[trifluoromethyl]phenyl) piperazine (trade name: TFMPP) to the list of schedule I controlled substances.

New York AB 11216

Prohibits sale or distribution of any product containing a synthetic cannabinoid; defines the chemical compounds that constitute a synthetic cannabinoid; imposes a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for a violation thereof; creates defenses based on over-the-counter drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration or lack of knowledge that the product contained a synthetic cannabinoid.

Ohio SB 275

Adds JWH-018 and JWH-073 to the list of schedule I controlled substances.

Ohio HB 544

Adds synthetic cannabinoids commonly known as K2 or Spice to the list of Schedule I controlled substances; prohibits the possession of Spice; prohibits trafficking in Spice; provides that, if Spice is the drug involved in a violation of the offense of corrupting another with drugs, the penalty for the violation will be the same as if marijuana was the drug involved in the offense.

Pennsylvania HB 176

Adds CP 47, 497; HU-210; HU-211; JWH-018; and JWH-073 to the list of schedule I controlled substances.

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