

HB

379

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB379CS(JUD)-DHSS-FMS-02-08-06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

() Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Title RELATING TO SCHEDULE IA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

RDU Departmental Support Services

Component Commissioner's Office

Sponsor MEYER

Requester HOUSE (JUD)

Component No. 317

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The proposed changes to Schedule IA controlled substances will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

Prepared by: Sherry Hill, Special Assistant
 Division: Office of the Commissioner
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-1618
 Date/Time 02/08/2006
 Date 02/08/2006



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 379

"An Act relating to controlled substances."

Taken first by bodybuilders in the 1980's when steroids were initially controlled, GHB was believed to enhance steroid production. A small amount of GHB, when ingested elicits feelings similar to intense intoxication and gained popularity initially as a way to get drunk without the calories.

Since it is easily added to a drink, difficult to detect, leaves the system quickly and is very difficult for law enforcement to identify, GHB has become a popular "date rape" drug. In February of 2000, GHB was elevated at the Federal Level to a schedule I narcotic. Like other drugs, GHB and its variations are sadly found in Alaska.

Late last year, three young men were charged in federal court in the death of a 16-year-old Chugiak High School Student. The young men were charged in Federal Court because the variation of GHB they were allegedly providing isn't covered in Alaska's controlled substances statutes.

House Bill 379 adds these variations of GHB to Alaska's controlled substances act and raises them, along with GHB to a schedule IA narcotic. Since this narcotic is addictive, dangerous, and popular as a "date rape" drug it deserves the harshest designation possible under state law.



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 30

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 19, 2006
TO: Representative Kevin Meyer
FROM: Mike Pawlowski
RE: Sectional Analysis for HB 379
(Version No. 24 - LS1396\G)

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds a new section elevating GHB to a schedule 1A controlled substance from a schedule 4 and includes the analogous substances gamma butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol in the schedule.

Section 2. Adds a new section including analogs to controlled substances in the references to controlled substances in chapter 71, defines controlled substance analogs and makes exceptions.

Section 3. Repeals the classification of GHB as a schedule 4 controlled substance.

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Anchorage Daily News

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Suspect pleads guilty in fatal drug case**COOPERATION: Three charges will be dropped in agreement with prosecutor.**By JULIA O'MALLEY
Anchorage Daily News*(Published: December 6, 2005)*

Thairon Hawk, one of three men charged in connection with a 16-year-old Chugiak High School student's fatal drug overdose, admitted in federal court he helped friends conceal evidence they had provided the killer dose of a potent drug.

Hawk, 22, pleaded guilty Monday to being an accessory after the fact, a felony that carries a sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison. His sentence may be closer to six or seven years, according to sentencing guidelines.

Hawk originally was indicted on three other criminal counts related to lying about his involvement in the crime: obstruction of justice, making false material declarations under oath to a grand jury, and making a false statement. Those charges will be dropped at sentencing as part of a plea agreement.

"He learned that two people had overdosed on GHB. He also learned one of those people had died," assistant U.S. attorney Crandon Randell told U.S. District Court Judge Ralph Beistline on Monday. "He took possession of one or more bottles of what he thought was GHB. He assisted in the permanent disposal of those bottles."

Hawk, a 2001 Dimond High graduate, and his friends, Glade Lusk, 22, and Matthew O'Connor, 25, were charged in the fatal overdose at a Spenard apartment in summer 2003.

At a late-night gathering, Meghan Maroney, 16, and an 18-year-old girl took doses of 1, 4-Butanediol, or BD, a drug chemically similar to the date-rape drug GHB, according to police. Maroney died. The other girl became sick but recovered. Lusk and O'Connor are charged with providing the drug.

The next morning, Hawk took the drug bottles and threw them away, possibly into Cook Inlet, according to his plea.

"(Hawk's) role didn't begin until the drug had been distributed and people had gotten sick and overdosed," Randell said. "He saw what was going on, and made the decision to get rid of that stuff at Lusk's request."

Because the plea agreement is sealed, Randell would not say whether the other charges against Hawk were dropped in exchange for his testimony against Lusk and O'Connor.

"There is an agreement. He gets something out of it, we get something out of it," Randell said. "We get finality as far as Mr. Hawk is concerned. Hawk gets the benefit of getting three counts dismissed."

O'Connor was charged with distributing a controlled substance to a person under 21. Lusk was

charged with distributing a controlled substance to a person under 21 and possessing a controlled substance with intent to distribute, causing serious bodily injury and death. Their trial is scheduled for Jan. 17.

Both men have pleaded not guilty.

GHB and BD, made of gamma butyrolactone and sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide -- chemicals found in degreasing solvent, floor stripper and drain cleaner -- can cause loss of muscle control, respiratory problems, loss of consciousness, temporary paralysis, and death, according to the drug information Web site projectghb.org.

Hawk will be sentenced at a hearing scheduled for Feb. 14.

Daily News reporter Julia O'Malley can be reached at jomalley@adn.com or 257-4325.

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Provider of fatal pill gets 13 years**PLEA: Girl died after consuming drink spiked with date-rape drug.**By MEGAN HOLLAND
Anchorage Daily News*(Published: January 12, 2006)*

A 22-year-old man agreed to a plea deal Wednesday in which he'll serve 13 years in federal prison for bringing a "date rape" drug to a party in 2003 that killed a teenage girl.

Glade Lusk pleaded guilty to the federal charges of possession of the drug with intent to distribute it and accessory after the fact for trying to get rid of evidence the next day. He was one of three people charged in the case.

The drug, mixed in a drink and passed around at the party, killed a 16-year-old girl and injured two others at the gathering. The drug was a form of the drug GHB, which is colorless, odorless, and causes drowsiness, dizziness and loss of inhibition. It is sometimes called "liquid ecstasy."

"We hope this case sends a very loud message to Alaskan parents and young people, first that GHB can kill you. And second, if you distribute it and give it to your friends, you face a very lengthy jail sentence," first assistant U.S. attorney Deborah Smith told a news conference at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Anchorage. "We plan to prosecute to the full extent of the law."

Anchorage Police Chief Wait Monegan said the case against the three men was the first in Alaska for which someone has been charged with the illegal distribution of the drug. Lusk was prosecuted federally because the particular form of the drug is not illegal in Alaska. Monegan said he wants to change that.

Earlier this month, Matthew O'Connor, 25, pleaded guilty to giving 16-year-old Meghan Maroney the drug and agreed to 10 years in prison. His brother brought her to the party, said John Murtagh, Lusk's attorney.

Last month, Thairon Hawk, 22, pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact, a felony that carries a sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison. His sentence may be closer to six or seven years, according to sentencing guidelines.

Murtagh said he and his client did not want to face a jury that might have convicted him of actually handing out the drug and giving it to Maroney, which would have carried a much stiffer federal prison sentence, possibly more than twice the sentence he agreed to. "We had to analyze possible outcomes of the trial," he said.

In June 2003, Maroney and a group of teenagers and young adults gathered at Lusk's apartment



Meghan Maroney, 16, died in 2003 after taking a drug-spiked drink. ()

on Roosevelt Drive in Spenard. Maroney, a Chugiak High School student, drank the drink containing the drug along with others at the party. Sometime that night or early the next morning, she died.

Prosecutors declined to say whether they believed Maroney knowingly drank the drug. They and police said that until the final court appearances for the defendants' sentencings, they would not discuss details of the case.

But Murtagh said there was nothing predatory about giving the drug to Maroney.

"I believe the evidence would have shown that (all the party-goers) knew it was going to be a (drug) party," he said.

Murtagh said his client was temporarily keeping the drug at his house for a friend, to whom he was going to return it. Lusk did not know Maroney, he said.

Lusk admitted in court documents that he had previously sold ecstasy and similar drugs.

"A lot of this reminds me of the last kid who makes the out in the Little League game," Murtagh said. "(Lusk) shouldn't have had it, it was a danger. But more of the issue is that kids ought to be more careful."

Meghan Maroney's father, Harold, was reached by phone at his Eagle River home Wednesday night.

"This is a big relief for us," he said "It's been a long time coming."

Sentencing for Lusk and O'Connor is scheduled for March 13. Sentencing for Hawk is scheduled for Feb. 14.

Daily News reporter Megan Holland can be reached at mrholland@adn.com.

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GHB: Bad Child of the Internet

They call it "carpeting out" when someone on GHB is dancing happily into the night, only to collapse in a heap and "hit the carpet" heading for a fit of vomiting, twitching or an unarousable coma. GHB is degreasing solvent (floor stripper) mixed with drain cleaner, and is a central nervous system depressant, with dangerous side effects. It is NOT a safe and fun drug as claimed on the Internet. Unfortunately, there is no validation process to protect you from false claims on the Internet. People have unknowingly taken GHB as a sleep aid, sexual stimulant or simply a recreational drug of abuse only to find themselves in intensive care in the hospital. Or, long-term to find themselves addicted to GHB. GHB gives a rapid onset of intoxication, comparable to alcohol but with a euphoric high and out-of-body experience. It often causes vomiting and muscle jerking. Breathing may slow to only six breathes per minute. Pulse/blood pressure will probably slow, or may increase. While most people do sleep off a GHB overdose, some will die without medical intervention. A GHB overdose IS a medical emergency.

Those Who Have Died

More than 10,000 adverse reactions to GHB are documented. More than 72 deaths have been deemed GHB related by DEA (170 more to review), perhaps just a tip of the iceberg since routine testing does not detect it. Deaths include a college student who took it as a "safe" sleep aid and died in his sleep. A 15-year-old in California's high desert who gulped GHB at a RAVE died. A 32-year old male in Atlanta, Georgia died from GHB only. A bodybuilder in Ohio died, with only alcohol and GHB use. A 15-year-old female in Michigan died from GHB/GBL use. Death is even more likely when alcohol or other drugs are added. Some would have lived IF their friends had called for help.

No Anabolic Effect

Taken first by bodybuilders in the 1980's when steroids were first controlled, GHB was believed to enhance steroid production. It doesn't work so easily. Many are lured into its use to get drunk without the calories of alcohol, but the risks are not worth it. GHB causes dangerous levels of impairment. An 18-year-old in California was given GHB by his sports trainer. He passed out, hit his head on the curb, and severed an optic nerve. He is blind in one eye. Others who have used GHB report an inability to maintain focus and stay in training, resulting in a lessening of physical conditioning, rather than a gain.

GHB's Role in Sexual Assaults

GHB is rapidly growing as a sexual assault problem because it is easily mixed into a drink, hard for a victim to detect, leaves the system quickly, and is difficult for law enforcement to identify. Drug-facilitated rape cases are difficult to prosecute. A victim's efforts to prevent such occurrences and a victim's actions if it does happen are crucial. Don't drink unusual drinks; don't take drinks from strangers; don't leave your drink unattended. If it happens, IMMEDIATE reporting is your best action. A urine sample is needed right away.

Remember too - Getting excessively drunk (alcohol or other recreational drugs) does NOT give anyone the right to rape you, but why volunteer to be a victim? **THINK!**

GHB Analogs - As Bad or Worse

GHB has "analogs," chemical cousins with identical or very similar effects. GHB is controlled (illegal) federally and in most states. In many states where GHB is illegal, the analogs have been covered and are also illegal. In any case, GHB and its analogs are not safe. Some of the deaths are from analogs.

Chemical Names

If you see words such as these on a "sports/health" food supplement you have purchased, BEWARE. These are analogs of GHB and just as dangerous: Gamma butyl lactone or gamma butyrolactone (GBL), 2(3H) furanone dihydro or dihydroxy, 1,4 butanediol, tetramethylene glycol. If the chemical names are different, but the product claims to be "safe" or "legal" or "herbal" GHB, BEWARE. It may be a different analog of GHB.

Product Names

These products have been sold as Blue Nitro, Renewtrient, Revivarant, Remforce, Firewater, Enliven, Serenity, Revitalize Plus, Thunder Nectar, Rejoov, Flower Power, Dream On, Weight Belt Cleaner and several others - the names keep changing.



GHB - A Sleep Aid?

Under the influence of GHB, you may not be able to hear (respond to) a phone, pager or doorbell ring or a knock at the door or a baby's cry or a fire alarm. If driving under the influence, you may kill yourself or someone else in a traffic accident.

AKA: The Date Rape Drug

There is no antidote for GHB. Overdose victims may need to be placed on life support until it passes to assure their survival. In a GHB coma, you cannot gag to save yourself if gum in your mouth falls to the back of your throat. You may not hear a fire alarm and save yourself.

The Great American Chemical Chase

Don't be a part of the Great American Chemical Chase...Life can be lived without a "magic potion" for every ache and discouragement and problem confronting you.

Think Before You Take (abuse)

Prescription pills that cause impairment, "sports" or "health" supplements that are unproven (and costly) or illegal drugs all have their risks. Stimulants, for example, can permanently damage serotonergic neurons, which control feelings of well being. Think about the consequences: Your current and future health potential brain (or other organ) damage, and the ever-present risk of death.

What does it mean that GHB is "naturally occurring?"

Poison ivy is naturally occurring. Snake venom is naturally occurring. Just because a chemical exists in your body naturally does not mean that adding additional quantities of it to your body is safe, much less beneficial. **EVEN IF A LITTLE IS GOOD, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT A LOT MUST BE BETTER.** Be careful what you add to your body - consequences may be grave.

ALSO KNOWN AS: GHB Jib, Scoop, Water, Salty Water, Gina, Easy Lay, GH Buddy, Blue Nitro, Swirl, Renewtrient, Firewater, Remforce, Serenity, Grievous Bodily Harm, Enliven, G, Liquid Ecstasy

RAVE PARTIES are today's most frequent location of first-time drug use for many American teens. Law enforcement presence has been slim, but it will increase. The presence of money-hungry drug dealers (they make big money) will also grow, as will the risk of death from the chemicals they market.



GHB, ketamine (Special K), MDMA (Ecstasy or E or XTC or The Hug Drug), mushrooms and LSD all carry a tremendous potential for personal damage, injury from traffic accidents and death from overdose or a resulting accident. Can it really be worth it?

ADDICTION TO GHB does happen and is incredibly hard to overcome. It is more dangerous to kick (detox) than heroin (since GHB withdrawal can be life threatening). It requires knowledgeable medical intervention. Depression and suicide are associated with GHB withdrawal. If you are addicted to GHB, contact us at www.projectghb.org or a regional Poison Control Center for help finding appropriate treatment.

The life you save may be your own.

Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate

Carpeting Out
Across America

PROJECT
GHB

For more information, go to
www.projectghb.org

PROJECT
GHB

What you don't know
can kill you.