



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 171*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Judiciary)

Reps. Blessing and Dever, Hood, Becker, R. Smith, Thompson

BILL SUMMARY

- Reduces the amount of heroin that must be trafficked or possessed to require the imposition of the maximum prison term for a first degree felony.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Amount of heroin trafficked or possessed for maximum prison term

The bill reduces the amount of heroin that must be trafficked or possessed in order for an offender to be classified as a major drug offender and to be subject to enhanced penalties. Under current law, a person who traffics or possesses 500 or more but less than 2,500 unit doses of heroin, or 50 or more but less than 200 grams of heroin, commits a felony of the first degree. The court must impose a mandatory prison term within the range for a first degree felony (3 to 11 years). If the amount of heroin involved equals or exceeds 2,500 unit doses or 200 grams, the offense is still a felony of the first degree, but the offender is a major drug offender and the court must impose the maximum prison term (11 years). The bill reduces the upper limits to 1,000 unit doses or 100 grams and makes the same reduction in the definition of "major drug offender."¹ Therefore, under the bill, a person who traffics or possesses 1,000 unit doses or 100 grams of heroin or more is a major drug offender and must receive the maximum prison term of 11 years.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Judiciary Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 2925.03(C)(6)(f) and (g), 2925.11(C)(6)(e) and (f), and 2929.01(W).

HISTORY

ACTION

Introduced
Reported, H. Judiciary

DATE

04-28-15

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