



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2469

fentanyl; border; public health crisis

Purpose

Declares that fentanyl coming across the Arizona border is a public health crisis and that the Department of Health Services (DHS) must do everything within its authority to stem this crisis.

Background

In June 2017, Governor Doug Ducey declared a statewide emergency to address opioid overdoses and deaths following the release of data that showed a 74 percent increase in opioid overdoses since 2013. The Declaration was followed by an executive order mandating real-time reporting of opioid overdoses. In 2018, Governor Ducey called for a Special Session of the Legislature dedicated to addressing the statewide opioid epidemic and ultimately signed S.B. 1001, which enacted a series of statutory and session law changes related to the prescribing, administering, dispensing and use of opioid drugs ([Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act](#) and [Laws 2018, ISS, Ch. 1](#)).

Fentanyl is a powerful lab-made opioid that is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat severe pain. Illegally made and distributed fentanyl, and other illegally made synthetic opioids, have been increasingly found in the drug supply, contributing to a dramatic rise in drug overdose deaths in the United States. People both knowingly consume fentanyl and other synthetic opioids and unknowingly consume them when they are mixed into or sold as other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, or counterfeit pills. Because fentanyl is about 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, and a lethal dose can be very small, using a drug that has been contaminated with or replaced by fentanyl can greatly increase one's risk of overdose ([National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Declares that fentanyl coming across the Arizona border is a public health crisis.
2. Requires DHS to do everything within its authority to stem the fentanyl crisis.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

HHS	2/13/23	DPA/SE	6-3-0-0
3 rd Read	3/1/23		31-28-1

Prepared by Senate Research
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MM/JM/slp