

# HOUSE BILL 1230

J1

4lr2550

---

By: **Delegates Pena–Melnik and A. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Tianeptine Consumer Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a retailer that prepares, distributes, sells, or exposes for sale  
4 a food that is represented to be a tianeptine product to disclose the factual basis on  
5 which the representation is made; prohibiting a retailer from preparing, distributing,  
6 selling, or exposing for sale tianeptine products that do not include certain  
7 information; prohibiting a retailer from distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a  
8 tianeptine product to an individual under a certain age; prohibiting a retailer from  
9 directly or indirectly advertising tianeptine products to minors; and generally  
10 relating to tianeptine and tianeptine retailers.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Health – General

13 Section 21–2D–01 through 21–2D–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2D.  
14 Tianeptine Consumer Protection Act”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2023 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 **SUBTITLE 2D. TIANEPTINE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT.**

21 **21–2D–01.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
23 **INDICATED.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (B) (1) "RETAILER" MEANS A PERSON THAT:

2 (I) SELLS, PREPARES, OR MAINTAINS TIANEPTINE PRODUCTS;

3 OR

4 (II) ADVERTISES, REPRESENTS, OR HOLDS ITSELF OUT AS  
5 SELLING, PREPARING, OR MAINTAINING TIANEPTINE PRODUCTS.

6 (2) "RETAILER" INCLUDES A MANUFACTURER, WHOLESALER, STORE,  
7 RESTAURANT, HOTEL, CATERING FACILITY, CAMP, BAKERY, DELICATESSEN,  
8 SUPERMARKET, GROCERY STORE, CONVENIENCE STORE, GAS STATION, OR FOOD OR  
9 DRINK COMPANY.

10 (C) "TIANEPTINE PRODUCT" MEANS A FOOD PRODUCT OR DIETARY  
11 INGREDIENT CONTAINING ANY AMOUNT OF TIANEPTINE SODIUM OR TIANEPTINE  
12 SULFATE.

13 21-2D-02.

14 (A) (1) A RETAILER THAT PREPARES, DISTRIBUTES, SELLS, OR EXPOSES  
15 FOR SALE A FOOD THAT IS REPRESENTED TO BE A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT SHALL  
16 DISCLOSE ON THE PRODUCT LABEL THE FACTUAL BASIS ON WHICH THE  
17 REPRESENTATION IS MADE.

18 (2) A RETAILER MAY NOT PREPARE, DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE  
19 FOR SALE A FOOD REPRESENTED TO BE A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT THAT DOES NOT  
20 CONFORM TO THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH  
21 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

22 (B) A RETAILER MAY NOT PREPARE, DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE FOR  
23 SALE A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE ON ITS PACKAGE OR LABEL  
24 THE AMOUNT OF TIANEPTINE SODIUM AND TIANEPTINE SULFATE CONTAINED IN  
25 THE PRODUCT.

26 (C) A RETAILER MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE FOR SALE A  
27 TIANEPTINE PRODUCT TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS.

28 (D) IN A PROSECUTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, IT IS A DEFENSE  
29 THAT THE DEFENDANT RELIED IN GOOD FAITH ON THE REPRESENTATIONS OF A  
30 MANUFACTURER, PROCESSOR, PACKER, OR DISTRIBUTOR OF FOOD REPRESENTED  
31 TO BE A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT.

1           **(E) A RETAILER THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION IS**  
2 **SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING:**

3                   **(1) \$500 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION; OR**

4                   **(2) \$1,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION.**

5           **(F) A RETAILER THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (A)(2), (B), OR (C) OF THIS**  
6 **SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE**  
7 **NOT EXCEEDING \$500, IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS, OR BOTH.**

8           **(G) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTIES UNDER THIS SECTION, A**  
9 **RETAILER WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS LIABLE FOR CIVIL DAMAGES SUSTAINED**  
10 **BY THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTING FROM THE VIOLATION.**

11 **21-2D-03.**

12           **(A) A RETAILER MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ADVERTISE OR**  
13 **MARKET TIANEPTINE PRODUCTS TO MINORS.**

14           **(B) IT IS A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR A**  
15 **RETAILER TO USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN THE ADVERTISING, PROMOTION,**  
16 **PACKAGING, OR LABELING OF A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT:**

17                   **(1) A CARTOON;**

18                   **(2) A SUPERHERO;**

19                   **(3) A VIDEO GAME REFERENCE;**

20                   **(4) AN IMAGE OF A FOOD PRODUCT PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR**  
21 **MINORS;**

22                   **(5) A TRADEMARK THAT IMITATES OR MIMICS THE TRADEMARK OF A**  
23 **PRODUCT THAT HAS BEEN ADVERTISED OR MARKETED PRIMARILY TO MINORS;**

24                   **(6) A SYMBOL OR CELEBRITY THAT IS PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH**  
25 **MINORS OR MEDIA PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO MINORS; AND**

26                   **(7) AN IMAGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE**  
27 **AGE OF 27 YEARS.**

1           **(C) IT IS A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR A**  
2 **RETAILER TO ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE A TIANEPTINE PRODUCT:**

3           **(1) IN A NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, PERIODICAL, OR OTHER**  
4 **PUBLICATION FOR WHICH INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS CONSTITUTE**  
5 **15% OR MORE OF THE TOTAL AUDIENCE, AS MEASURED BY COMPETENT AND**  
6 **RELIABLE SURVEY EVIDENCE;**

7           **(2) AT A CONCERT, STADIUM, SPORTING EVENT, OR OTHER PUBLIC**  
8 **EVENT FOR WHICH INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS CONSTITUTE 15% OR**  
9 **MORE OF THE TOTAL AUDIENCE, AS MEASURED BY COMPETENT AND RELIABLE**  
10 **SURVEY EVIDENCE; OR**

11           **(3) ON AN OUTDOOR BILLBOARD OR SIGNBOARD THAT IS WITHIN 500**  
12 **FEET OF A SCHOOL.**

13 **21-2D-04.**

14           **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
15 **SUBTITLE.**

16           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
17 **October 1, 2024.**