

HB 1880 -- INHALATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES

SPONSOR: Black (7)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill makes changes to existing statute prohibiting a person from intentionally smelling or inhaling the fumes of a solvent for the purposes of inducing certain symptoms.

The bill adds "inhaling the gases or vapors of" to the statute. The bill also adds "inhaling the fumes, gases or vapors of any chemical, reagent, refrigerant, or other substance" to the statute. The bill adds "for the purposes of causing hallucination" to the statute.

The current penalty of violations under the provisions of the sections related to inhaling certain substances is a class B misdemeanor for the first violation and a class E felony for any subsequent violation. Under this bill, the first violation is a class D misdemeanor and participation in a drug treatment program if allowed by law; a second violation is a class A misdemeanor; and any subsequent violation is a class D felony.

This bill is similar to HB 700 (2021).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that, four years ago, a young woman was killed in Chillicothe one block away from the county square by a car going 60 miles per hour over the speed limit. The person who hit her bought a substance at Walmart and inhaled it in the Walmart parking lot. A judge said it is not illegal for a person to inhale this substance. The bill was changed from last year to make the penalty a stepping stone rather than going straight to a felony and adding the possibility of drug treatment court.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Black and Arnie C. AC Dienoff.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.