

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1541

Date: 3-17-16

(Filing No. S-404)

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “**B**” to S.P. 602, L.D. 1541, Bill, “An Act To Increase Sentences Imposed for the Illegal Importation of Scheduled Drugs”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Increase Sentences Imposed for the Illegal Importation of Certain Scheduled Drugs'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3314, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 657, §1, is further amended to read:

**6. Forfeiture of firearms.** As part of every disposition in every proceeding under this code, every firearm that constitutes the basis for an adjudication for a juvenile crime that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a violation of section 393; Title 17-A, section 1105-A, subsection 1, paragraph C-1; Title 17-A, section 1105-B, subsection 1, paragraph C; Title 17-A, section 1105-C, subsection 1, paragraph C-1; ~~or Title 17-A, section 1105-D, subsection 1, paragraph B-1; or Title 17-A, section 1118-A, subsection 1, paragraph B~~ and every firearm used by the juvenile or any accomplice during the course of conduct for which the juvenile has been adjudicated to have committed a juvenile crime that would have been forfeited pursuant to Title 17-A, section 1158-A if the criminal conduct had been committed by an adult must be forfeited to the State and the juvenile court shall so order unless another person satisfies the court prior to the dispositional hearing and by a preponderance of the evidence that the other person had a right to possess the firearm, to the exclusion of the juvenile, at the time of the conduct that constitutes the juvenile crime. Rules adopted by the Attorney General that govern the disposition of firearms forfeited pursuant to Title 17-A, section 1158-A govern forfeitures under this subsection.

**Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1118, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 428, §1, is amended to read:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 A. A Class C crime if the drug is a schedule W drug, except that the violation is a  
2 Class B crime if the drug is fentanyl powder or if the drug is heroin and at the time of  
3 the offense the person illegally imports heroin in a quantity of 6 grams or more or  
4 270 or more individual bags, folds, packages, envelopes or containers of any kind  
5 containing heroin; and

6 Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §1118-A is enacted to read:

7 **§1118-A. Aggravated illegal importation of scheduled drugs**

8 1. A person is guilty of aggravated illegal importation of a scheduled drug if the  
9 person violates section 1118; the drug is fentanyl powder or the drug is heroin and at the  
10 time of the offense the person illegally imports heroin in a quantity of 6 grams or more or  
11 270 or more individual bags, folds, packages, envelopes or containers of any kind  
12 containing heroin; and:

13 A. At the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions for any  
14 Class A, B or C offense under this chapter or for engaging in substantially similar  
15 conduct to that of the Class A, B or C offenses under this chapter in another  
16 jurisdiction.

17 Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence, except  
18 that, for the purposes of this paragraph, the date of each prior conviction may precede  
19 the commission of the offense being enhanced by more than 10 years;

20 B. At the time of the offense, the person possesses a firearm in the furtherance of the  
21 offense, uses a firearm, carries a firearm or is armed with a firearm;

22 C. At the time of the offense, the person enlists or solicits the aid of or conspires  
23 with a child who is in fact less than 18 years of age to illegally import the scheduled  
24 drug; or

25 D. Death is in fact caused by the use of the scheduled drug.

26 A violation of this subsection is a Class A crime.

27 2. If a person uses a motor vehicle to facilitate the aggravated illegal importation of  
28 a scheduled drug, the court may, in addition to other authorized penalties, suspend the  
29 person's driver's license or permit or privilege to operate a motor vehicle or right to apply  
30 for or obtain a license for a period not to exceed 5 years. A suspension may not begin  
31 until after any period of incarceration is served. If the court suspends a person's driver's  
32 license or permit, privilege to operate a motor vehicle or right to apply for or obtain a  
33 license, the court shall notify the Secretary of State of the suspension and the court shall  
34 take physical custody of the person's license or permit. The Secretary of State may not  
35 reinstate the person's driver's license or permit or privilege to operate a motor vehicle or  
36 right to apply for or obtain a license unless the person demonstrates that, after having  
37 been released and discharged from any period of incarceration that may have been  
38 ordered, the person has served the period of suspension ordered by the court.

39 Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §1158-A, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 336, §13,  
40 is further amended to read:

41 A. That firearm constitutes the basis for conviction under:

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- 1 (1) Title 15, section 393;
- 2 (2) Section 1105-A, subsection 1, paragraph C-1;
- 3 (3) Section 1105-B, subsection 1, paragraph C;
- 4 (4) Section 1105-C, subsection 1, paragraph C-1; ~~or~~
- 5 (5) Section 1105-D, subsection 1, paragraph B-1; or
- 6 (6) Section 1118-A, subsection 1, paragraph B;

7 **Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §1252, sub-§5-A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 133, §15, is  
8 further amended to read:

9 **5-A.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, for a person convicted of  
10 violating section 1105-A, 1105-B, 1105-C ~~or~~, 1105-D or 1118-A:

11 A. Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs B and C, the minimum sentence of  
12 imprisonment, which may not be suspended, is as follows: When the sentencing class  
13 is Class A, the minimum term of imprisonment is 4 years; when the sentencing class  
14 is Class B, the minimum term of imprisonment is 2 years; and, with the exception of  
15 a conviction under section 1105-A, 1105-B, 1105-C or 1105-D when the drug that is  
16 the basis for the charge is marijuana, when the sentencing class is Class C, the  
17 minimum term of imprisonment is one year;

18 B. The court may impose a sentence other than a minimum unsuspended term of  
19 imprisonment set forth in paragraph A, if:

20 (1) The court finds by substantial evidence that:

21 (a) Imposition of a minimum unsuspended term of imprisonment under  
22 paragraph A will result in substantial injustice to the defendant. In making  
23 this determination, the court shall consider, among other considerations,  
24 whether the defendant did not know and reasonably should not have known  
25 that the victim was less than 18 years of age;

26 (b) Failure to impose a minimum unsuspended term of imprisonment under  
27 paragraph A will not have an adverse effect on public safety; and

28 (c) Failure to impose a minimum unsuspended term of imprisonment under  
29 paragraph A will not appreciably impair the effect of paragraph A in  
30 deterring others from violating section 1105-A, 1105-B, 1105-C ~~or~~, 1105-D  
31 or 1118-A; and

32 (2) The court finds that:

33 (c) The defendant's background, attitude and prospects for rehabilitation and  
34 the nature of the victim and the offense indicate that imposition of a sentence  
35 under paragraph A would frustrate the general purposes of sentencing set  
36 forth in section 1151.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 602, L.D. 1541

1 If the court imposes a sentence under this paragraph, the court shall state in writing  
2 its reasons for its findings and for imposing a sentence under this paragraph rather  
3 than under paragraph A; and

4 C. If the court imposes a sentence under paragraph B, the minimum sentence of  
5 imprisonment, which may not be suspended, is as follows: When the sentencing class  
6 is Class A, the minimum term of imprisonment is 9 months; when the sentencing is  
7 Class B, the minimum term of imprisonment is 6 months; and, with the exception of  
8 trafficking or furnishing marijuana under section 1105-A or 1105-C, when the  
9 sentencing class is Class C, the minimum term of imprisonment is 3 months.'

10

**SUMMARY**

11 This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment raises the  
12 class of crime for the illegal importation of scheduled drugs for a schedule W drug from a  
13 Class C crime to a Class B crime if the drug is fentanyl powder or the drug is heroin and  
14 at the time of the offense the person illegally imports 6 grams or more of heroin or 270 or  
15 more individual bags, folds, packages, envelopes or containers of any kind containing  
16 heroin.

17 Like the bill, this amendment creates the crime of aggravated illegal importation of a  
18 scheduled drug; however, the amendment limits the scheduled drugs that may give rise to  
19 the crime to fentanyl powder and certain amounts of heroin. The aggravating factors  
20 include a prior drug conviction, using a firearm while committing the offense, having a  
21 child under 18 years of age assist with the illegal importation and when death is in fact  
22 caused by the use of the scheduled drug.

23 The amendment adds aggravated illegal importation of a scheduled drug to the crimes  
24 that may result, under certain circumstances, in the forfeiture of firearms.

25 The amendment specifies that the minimum sentence of imprisonment is 4 years for a  
26 violation of the law prohibiting aggravated illegal importation of a scheduled drug.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1541

LR 2284(03)

An Act To Increase Sentences Imposed for the Illegal Importation of Scheduled Drugs

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-404)  
Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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## Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund  
Minor revenue increase - General Fund

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

- Establishes new Class A crimes.
- Increases the class of a crime from a Class C crime to a Class B crime.
- Increases correctional and judicial costs.
- The collection of additional fines may also increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.