

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6718

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF

**Title:** PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/2/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/21/2023

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children.

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Sen. Saud Anwar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill requires the printing of statements that direct consumers to information concerning the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, cannabis, and other products on containers. The bill also that the Dept. of Consumer Protection develop a public awareness campaign concerning the storage and disposal of these items.

JFS Language (LCO 5371) – This language contains specific wording for the statement in Section 1 concerning the color of the label and the wording "Danger to Children" and "Keep Out of Reach". Section 2- changes "retailer to dispensary facility" on the posted sign and "Do Not Use Cannabis if Under 21". "Keep Out of Reach of Children" on the product package. Section 3- directs the Dept of Consumer Protection to design and produce labels and distribute them to distributors of these products. Section 4- Directs the Dept of Consumer Protection, Dept of Public Health and Children and Families to develop a public awareness program. Sections 6 thru 13- allocates money from various sources to fund staffing and production and distribution of labels and the awareness program.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

Injury Prevention Center, Office for Community Child Health, Executive Director, Kevin Borrup, DrPH, JD, MPA, supports this bill and emphasizes that knowledge is power, and it is crucial to provide parents, guardians and caregivers with the appropriate information and tools to remind and keep these potentially dangerous products away from children.

Connecticut Youth Services Association, Executive Director, Kathryn Dube, supports this bill and reminds of the importance of the regulation of this industry to safeguard public health and safety, especially towards children. They also suggest the following for consideration:

- Ensure proper regulatory system (similar to liquor control in DCP) with licensed establishments, safe storage and disposal.
- Partner with Department of Consumer Protection to monitor youth substance abuse and oversee prevention efforts within towns.
- Creation of a prevention campaign directed towards youth (possibly included in school health curricula).
- Replace "recreational marijuana" with "Adult-Use Cannabis."

Resident of Norwalk, Margaret Watt, comments on the bill and suggests numerous changes to the bill including some but not all:

- Tailor language towards parents who are cannabis users.
- Visuals to warn about health, mental health, and addiction risks with youth.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

Connecticut Pharmacists Association, CEO, Nathan Tinker, opposes this bill as it treats prescription drugs and cannabis as equivalents. Cannabis and prescription drugs are not offered within the same establishment and compared to pharmacies adult-use cannabis is virtually unregulated. They urge that all references of prescription medications to be removed from the bill as well as the mandate to require pharmacists to bear financial and workflow costs of this bill.

**Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk /  
Christian Talarski**

**Date: 3/14/23**