



FLORIDA FUSION CENTER

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 Brief

- Criminal Indices Check
 Situational Awareness

- Request for Information

Felony Scheduling of Synthetic Drugs

(Intended for Public Distribution)

Introduction/Overview:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is providing the following situational awareness brief addressing new psychoactive synthetic substances that are being marketed to Florida's youth. Suspected as being produced as legal substitutes for ecstasy, cocaine, and amphetamines, these chemicals are powerful stimulant drugs that have been designed to avoid legal prosecution, and are commonly available on the internet, specialty "smoke" shops, and convenience stores. Synthetic drugs can be comprised of different unregulated chemical substances and are being sold under a variety of names or brands. Both the law enforcement community and medical professionals indicate that these substances are becoming increasingly popular due to the perception that they pose a seemingly safer alternative to illegal methods of getting "high" and can easily be obtained.



On December 11, 2012, Attorney General Pam Bondi implemented the emergency scheduling of 22 psychoactive substances. On April 24, 2013, Senate Bill 294 was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott permanently designating those 22 psychoactive substances plus an additional four psychoactive compounds as Schedule I drugs.

Florida law enforcement agencies were briefed on this law and have been encouraged to contact establishments within their jurisdiction who are known to sell the aforementioned banned substances. Due to a lack of quality control or production approved oversight, retailers should be aware that mislabeled packing could contain illegal substances which could result in a felony arrest.

Retailers and those in possession of psychoactive synthetic substances who require assistance in their lawful disposal are asked to contact their local law enforcement agencies. Failure to comply with Florida law could result in a felony arrest as punishable under 775.082, F.S.

If you would like more information about this intelligence brief or if you have information that you would like posted in a bulletin, please contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement at (850) 410-7645.

Send feedback comments or suggestions to: Fusionfeedback@fdle.state.fl.us (Please reference the Brief #).

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