

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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Tie vote blocks Cannabis Product Safety legislation

Santa Fe – Last night the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee blocked HB 157, Cannabis Product Safety legislation on a tie vote. The Cannabis Product Safety bill would have clarified in statute, packaging requirements for cannabis products to protect children’s safety. The Cannabis Product Safety bill, HB 157 was drafted in response to reports of cannabis distribution in New Mexico schools.

“Our schools and educators are calling on this legislature to ensure that our laws are clear that cannabis packaging meets commonsense standards in order to protect the safety of our children and schools,” said HB 157 sponsor State Rep. Andrea Reeb (R-Clovis). “I have heard from many school districts across the state, and of course many New Mexicans have seen cannabis incident reports in our school systems, and HB 157 is designed to strengthen our state’s position on protecting safety for our children.”

HB 157 was defeated on a vote of 3 – 3, with Democratic Rep. Thompson voting in favor with Republican Reps Lord and Block.

Attached to this release are comments from NM educators/schools regarding their concerns for Cannabis Product Safety.

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From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

BELEN

We have definitely seen an increase in the various Cannabis products. Last week we sent someone by ambulance to hospital who ate an entire Reece Pieces Cereal Bar (6 sections to be eaten individually and not all at once). I've attached a fact sheet with the bar. We have also seen on campus the: Nerd Rope, Oreo's, and Sour Patch. Most of our activity has been at the High School. They are seeing students with the new hoodies that help them hide the vape pens and other products. The students are trying to disguise the nicotine products but it is actually THC.

We have transported more students to the hospital via ambulance this year than past years. Students don't know what they have taken, request of parents or so out of it they can't even sit up.

The Middle School is seeing lots of vape pens with supposedly nicotine but may well be something else.
Health Services Coordinator
Health Services - Belen Consolidated Schools

PORTALES

We are seeing students that are using the same products. The day after THC became legal in NM, I had a student in the bathroom who ingested an entire package of what looked like chex mix laced with THC. We had her transported by EMS.
Director of Nurses
Portales Municipal Schools

SANTA FE

Yes, we have the same problem and had to educate our staff before school on what to look for.

Thank you,
Superintendent
Santa Fe Public Schools

HOUSE

This is the first year that House Schools has implemented a drug testing policy for our student athletes. While I have no data from previous years, I can report that we have identified positive cases in our student population as a result of this implementation. As a micro-district, the positive use of marijuana with the smallest of school populations should infer that the problem is multiplied in larger districts.

HOBBS

I am going to forward this to my High School and Freshman school nurses as they are dealing with this multiple times a day and I would like them to answer this for you, if they would like.

Director of Nursing
Hobbs Schools

TULAROSA

ularosa has seen this problem with cannabis related products. Gummi bears are made to look like childrens candy along with suckers and some chocolate bars.

LOVING

We are experiencing (very occasionally) our younger students bringing cannabis gummies from home and wanting to share them with their friends. I'm sorry, this may not help you much, but I can assure you that it is not just an issue in Clovis. I'm sure that it extends to every state in the union!

ALAMOGORDO

We, too, have seen students that have ingested snacks that were packaged to look like a typical snack but contained THC. It has resulted in being sent to the ER and school wide education on the risks of taking snacks/meds from others. We would greatly appreciate the support and assistance in identifying and educating students and families on the unsuspecting packaging and better understand where and how students are gaining access to these items.

Executive Director of Health Services
Alamogordo Public Schools

RIO RANCHO

Is RRPS seeing an increase in Cannabis products being used and brought into our schools? The answer is a definite YES!

I skimmed through the attached Bill and have a few thoughts. We have one Alcohol, Drug and Substance Abuse Counselor in our large district so although having additional prevention materials would be helpful, our students need more of the counseling aspect to help teach coping skills and to learn how to navigate without the use of cannabis. Our one ADSAC counselor cannot keep up with the requests for services from our secondary counselors and administrators. In most cases, our academic counselors are not able to provide this aspect of counseling and fulfill all their other required duties. In addition, our academic counselors are not highly trained substance abuse counselors.

I hope this information is helpful.
Executive Director of Student Services (includes nursing services and counseling services)