STATE OF NEW YORK

5448

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 21, 2025

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, ASHBY, PALUMBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to establishing certain offenses based on homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance, establishing the offense of criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the first degree, expanding the definition of controlled substances with respect to certain offenses, increasing the felony classification of certain controlled substance offenses and including electronic prescriptions and blank prescription forms in the definition of certain controlled substance offenses

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding two new sections 125.28 and 125.29 to read as follows:

§ 125.28 Homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree.

A person is guilty of homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree when such person:

1. (a) Commits the offense of: (i) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the fifth degree as defined in section 220.31 of this chapter; (ii) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the fourth degree as defined in section 220.34 of this chapter; (iii) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third degree as defined in section 220.39 of this chapter; (iv) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree as defined in section 220.41 of this chapter; (v) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree as defined in section 220.43 of this chapter; (vi) criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds as defined in section 220.44 of this chapter; (vii) criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the second degree as defined in section 220.48 of this chapter; (viii) criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance, a blank prescription

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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form or of a controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist as defined in section 220.65 of this chapter; or (ix) operating as a major trafficker as defined in section 220.77 of this chapter; and

(b) The injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the controlled substance sold causes, or contributes to, the death of the person to whom the controlled substance was sold.

2. For purposes of this section, a person's act of manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance is the cause of a death when: the injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the controlled substance is an antecedent but for which the death would not have occurred.

3. It shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this section that the decedent contributed to their own death by such decedent's purposeful, knowing, reckless, or negligent injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the substance or by such decedent's consenting to the administration of the controlled substance by another. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude or limit any other prosecution under this article or article two hundred twenty of this chapter.

4. An indeterminate sentence of imprisonment is mandatory.

Homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree is a class B felony.

§ 125.29 Homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree.

A person is guilty of homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree when such person:

1. (a) Commits the offense of: (i) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the fifth degree as defined in section 220.31 of this chapter; (ii) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the fourth degree as defined in section 220.34 of this chapter; (iii) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third degree as defined in section 220.39 of this chapter; (iv) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree as defined in section 220.41 of this chapter; (v) criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree as defined in section 220.43 of this chapter; (vi) criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds as defined in section 220.44 of this chapter; (vii) criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the second degree as defined in section 220.48 of this chapter; (viii) criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the first degree as defined in section 220.49 of this chapter; (ix) criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance, a blank prescription form or of a controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist as defined in section 220.65 of this chapter; or (x) operating as a major trafficker as defined in section 220.77 of this chapter;

(b) The injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the controlled substance sold causes, or contributes to, the death of the person to whom the controlled substance was sold; and

(c)(i) The controlled substance is listed in subdivision (c) or (d) of schedule II of section thirty-three hundred six of the public health law, other than methadone; (ii) an additional substance was added to the controlled substance sold which enhances the effects of the controlled substance and/or increases the danger of ingestion; (iii) the person to whom the controlled substance was sold was impaired by one or more substances at the time of the sale; (iv) the person knew, or had reason to know, that the person to whom the controlled substance was sold was using, or intended to use, one or more other substances in conjunction with the controlled substance sold; (v) the person knew, or had reason

to know, that the person to whom the controlled substance was sold had completed a rehabilitation program, or overdosed, within thirty days of the sale; or (vi) the person, being over twenty-one years old, sold a controlled substance to a person less than eighteen years old.

2. For purposes of this section, a person's act of manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance is the cause of a death when: the injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the controlled substance is an antecedent but for which the death would not have occurred.

3. It shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this section that the decedent contributed to their own death by such decedent's purposeful, knowing, reckless, or negligent injection, inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of the substance or by such decedent's consenting to the administration of the substance by another. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude or limit any other prosecution under this article or article two hundred twenty of this chapter.

4. An indeterminate sentence of imprisonment is mandatory.

Homicide due to criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree is a class A felony.

§ 2. Subdivision 13 of section 220.16 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 1995, is amended and a new subdivision 14 is added to read as follows:

13. phencyclidine and said phencyclidine weighs one thousand two hundred fifty milligrams or more[.]; or

14. one or more preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances containing heroin and said preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are of an aggregate weight of one and one-half grams or more, or such preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are packaged in fifty or more containers, packets or "decks".

§ 3. Subdivision 7 of section 220.18 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 1995, is amended and a new subdivision 8 is added to read as follows:

7. methadone and said methadone weighs two thousand eight hundred eighty milligrams or more[.]; or

8. one or more preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances containing heroin and said preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are of an aggregate weight of twelve grams or more, or such preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are packaged in four hundred or more containers, packets or "decks".

§ 4. Subdivision 2 of section 220.21 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 1995, is amended and a new subdivision 3 is added to read as follows:

2. methadone and said methadone weighs five thousand seven hundred sixty milligrams or more[.]; or

3. one or more preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances containing heroin and said preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are of an aggregate weight of twenty-four grams or more, or such preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are packaged in eight hundred or more containers, packets or "decks".

§ 5. Subdivision 7 of section 220.41 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 1995, is amended and a new subdivision 8 is added to read as follows:

7. methadone and the methadone weighs three hundred sixty milligrams or more[.]; or

8. one or more preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances containing heroin and the preparations, compounds, mixtures or

substances are of an aggregate weight of one and one-half grams or more, or such preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are packaged in fifty or more containers, packets or "decks".

§ 6. Subdivision 2 of section 220.43 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 1995, is amended and a new subdivision 3 is added to read as follows:

2. methadone and the methadone weighs two thousand eight hundred eighty milligrams or more[~~.~~]; or

3. one or more preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances containing heroin and the preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are of an aggregate weight of six grams or more, or such preparations, compounds, mixtures or substances are packaged in two hundred or more containers, packets or "decks".

§ 7. Section 220.48 of the penal law, as added by section 28 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

§ 220.48 Criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the second degree.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the second degree when, being over twenty-one years old, [~~he or she~~] such person knowingly and unlawfully sells without consideration or other benefit or gain a controlled substance in violation of section 220.34 or 220.39 of this article to [~~a~~] another person less than [~~seven-teen~~] eighteen years old.

Criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the second degree is a class B felony.

§ 8. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 220.49 to read as follows:

§ 220.49 Criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the first degree.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the first degree when, being over twenty-one years old, such person knowingly and unlawfully sells a controlled substance for consideration or other benefit or gain in violation of section 220.34 or 220.39 of this article to another person less than eighteen years old.

Criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child in the first degree is a class A-II felony.

§ 9. The closing paragraph of section 220.50 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 627 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

Criminally using drug paraphernalia in the second degree is a class [~~A misdemeanor~~] E felony.

§ 10. Section 220.55 of the penal law, as added by chapter 970 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

§ 220.55 Criminally using drug paraphernalia in the first degree.

A person is guilty of criminally using drug paraphernalia in the first degree when [~~he~~] such person commits the crime of criminally using drug paraphernalia in the second degree and [~~he~~] such person has previously been convicted of criminally using drug paraphernalia in the second degree.

Criminally using drug paraphernalia in the first degree is a class [~~D~~] C felony.

§ 11. Subdivision 15 of section 220.00 of the penal law, as added by chapter 118 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

15. "Prescription for a controlled substance" means a direction or authorization, by means of an official New York state prescription form, an electronic prescription, a written prescription form or an oral

prescription, which will permit a person to lawfully obtain a controlled substance from any person authorized to dispense controlled substances.

§ 12. Section 220.65 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 31 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

§ 220.65 Criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance**, a blank prescription form** or of a controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist.

A person is guilty of criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance**, a blank prescription form** or of a controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist when: 1. being a practitioner, as that term is defined in section thirty-three hundred two of the public health law, [~~he or she~~] **such person** knowingly and unlawfully sells a prescription for a controlled substance **or a blank prescription form**. For the purposes of this section, a person sells a prescription for a controlled substance **or a blank prescription form** unlawfully when [~~he or she~~] **such person** does so other than in good faith in the course of [~~his or her~~] **such person's** professional practice; or

2. being a practitioner or pharmacist, as those terms are defined in section thirty-three hundred two of the public health law, [~~he or she~~] **such person**, acting other than in good faith, while purporting to act within the scope of the power, authority and privileges of [~~his or her~~] **such person's** license, as that term is defined in section thirty-three hundred two of the public health law, knowingly and unlawfully sells a controlled substance **or a blank prescription form**.

Criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance**, a blank prescription form** or of a controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist is a class [~~C~~] **B** felony.

§ 13. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law.