



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Four Price
Chair, House Public Health Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910

Dear Chairman Price:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Phil King
Chair, House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910

Dear Chairman King:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt".

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable James White
Chair, House Corrections Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910

Dear Chairman White:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JH', followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt".

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Governor Patrick:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hellerstedt'.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Charles Schwertner
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Schwertner:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable John Whitmire
Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Whitmire:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JH' followed by a flourish.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 20, 2018

The Honorable Joe Straus
Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910

Dear Speaker Straus:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hellerstedt'.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 26, 2018

The Honorable Joe Moody
Chair, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910

Dear Chairman Moody:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) Section 481.0355](#), requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to report to the Governor and Texas Legislature any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the preceding two-year period. These actions must be reported by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS has not initiated any independent emergency scheduling actions in the preceding two-year period. Recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl-related substances). This rapid and broad-ranging control by the DEA reduced the need for the state to act under this statute.

[HSC Section 481.034](#) requires the commissioner to schedule a controlled substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2018, DSHS has finalized scheduling actions on 17 substances, subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the DEA. The current schedule of controlled substances is available at: dshs.texas.gov/drugs/controlled-substances.aspx.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Kirk Cole, Interim Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue, and he can be reached by telephone at 512-834-6660 or by email at Kirk.Cole@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", followed by a small flourish.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.