

HB652 INTRODUCED



1 HB652
2 RBT39YY-1
3 By Representative Barnes
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 31-Mar-26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the crime of manslaughter is a Class B felony which may be committed by: (i) reckless murder; (ii) heat of passion murder; (iii) knowingly furnishing a controlled substance containing fentanyl to another which is the proximate cause of the recipient's death; or (iv) operating a motor vehicle or vessel while under the influence and causes the death of another.

This bill would amend the third option for the crime by providing that the crime is committed if the person furnishes any controlled substance to another which is the proximate cause of the recipient's death.

This bill would also increase the penalty for such violation.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to crimes; to amend Section 13A-6-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2026-64, 2026 Regular Session, to provide that the crime of manslaughter is committed if a person furnishes any controlled substance that



HB652 INTRODUCED

29 is the proximate cause of death of the recipient; and to
30 increase the penalty associated with the violation.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

32 Section 1. Section 13A-6-3, Code of Alabama 1975, as
33 last amended by Act 2026-64, 2026 Regular Session, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 "§13A-6-3

36 (a) A person commits the crime of manslaughter if he or
37 she does any of the following:

38 (1) Recklessly causes the death of another individual.

39 (2) Causes the death of another individual under
40 circumstances that would constitute murder under Section
41 13A-6-2; except, that he or she causes the death due to a
42 sudden heat of passion caused by provocation recognized by
43 law, and before a reasonable time for the passion to cool and
44 for reason to reassert itself.

45 (3)a. Knowingly sells, furnishes, gives away, delivers,
46 or distributes a controlled substance in violation of Section
47 13A-12-211, ~~which contains fentanyl, any mixture containing~~
48 ~~fentanyl, any synthetic controlled substance fentanyl, or any~~
49 ~~synthetic controlled substance fentanyl analogue as described~~
50 ~~in Sections 20-2-23 and 20-2-25,~~ and the individual to whom
51 the controlled substance is sold, furnished, given, delivered,
52 or distributed dies as a proximate result of the use of the
53 controlled substance. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
54 construed to apply to a licensed physician engaged in the
55 practice of medicine, a licensed pharmacist engaged in the
56 practice of pharmacy, or a licensed dentist engaged in the



HB652 INTRODUCED

57 practice of dentistry.

58 b. It is not a defense to this subdivision that the
59 person who sold, furnished, gave away, delivered, or
60 distributed the controlled substance had no knowledge that the
61 controlled substance contained fentanyl, any mixture
62 containing fentanyl, any synthetic controlled substance
63 fentanyl, or any synthetic controlled substance fentanyl
64 analogue as described in Sections 20-2-23 and 20-2-25.

65 (4) Drives or operates a motor vehicle or vessel in
66 violation of Section 32-5A-191 or 32-5A-191.3, and causes the
67 death of another individual.

68 (b) (1) Manslaughter is a Class B felony.

69 (2) Manslaughter under subdivision (a) (3) is a Class A
70 felony. The court shall sentence the defendant to a minimum of
71 life imprisonment."

72 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
73 1, 2026.