

# SENATE BILL 604

E1  
SB 1075/24 – JPR

51r2602  
CF 51r2605

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By: **Senators Waldstreicher and Ready**  
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily**  
3 **Injury or Death**  
4 **(Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader’s Law)**

5 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an individual from distributing heroin or fentanyl or a  
6 chemical analogue of heroin or fentanyl, the use of which results in the death or  
7 serious bodily injury of another; and generally relating to the distribution of  
8 controlled dangerous substances.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – Criminal Law  
11 Section 5–602.1  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Criminal Procedure  
16 Section 4–201(j)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Criminal Law**

22 **5–602.1.**

23 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “DISTRIBUTE” DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SHARING OF**  
24 **HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR A CHEMICAL ANALOGUE OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WITHOUT REMUNERATION OR THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS OR SERVICES.

2 (B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT  
3 DISTRIBUTE HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR A CHEMICAL ANALOGUE OF HEROIN OR  
4 FENTANYL WITHOUT THE LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO DO SO, THE USE OF WHICH  
5 RESULTS IN THE DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OF ANOTHER.

6 (C) THIS SECTION APPLIES REGARDLESS OF WHETHER:

7 (1) THE DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO ANOTHER OCCURRED  
8 AS A RESULT OF USING HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR A CHEMICAL ANALOGUE OF  
9 HEROIN OR FENTANYL BY ITSELF OR COMBINED WITH ANY COMPOUND, MIXTURE,  
10 DILUENT, OR OTHER SUBSTANCE;

11 (2) THE HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR THE CHEMICAL ANALOGUE OF  
12 HEROIN OR FENTANYL IS MIXED OR COMBINED WITH ANY COMPOUND, MIXTURE,  
13 DILUENT, OR OTHER SUBSTANCE AFTER THE VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
14 SECTION OCCURS; OR

15 (3) THE DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR THE CHEMICAL  
16 ANALOGUE OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL IS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON WHO DIES  
17 OR SUFFERS SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.

18 (D) IF POSSESSION OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR A CHEMICAL ANALOGUE  
19 OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL IS TRANSFERRED MORE THAN ONCE PRIOR TO THE  
20 OCCURRENCE OF THE DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, EACH PERSON WHO  
21 DISTRIBUTED OR DELIVERED THE HEROIN, FENTANYL, OR THE CHEMICAL  
22 ANALOGUE OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE VIOLATED  
23 THIS SECTION.

24 (E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND,  
25 IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY IMPOSED FOR A VIOLATION OF § 5-602 OF  
26 THIS SUBTITLE, ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 20  
27 YEARS.

28 (F) A SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSECUTIVE  
29 TO AND NOT CONCURRENT WITH ANOTHER SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER ANY OTHER  
30 PROVISION OF LAW.

31 (G) A PERSON WHO, IN GOOD FAITH, SEEKS, PROVIDES, OR ASSISTS WITH  
32 THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PERSON EXPERIENCING A MEDICAL  
33 EMERGENCY AFTER USING HEROIN OR FENTANYL OR A CHEMICAL ANALOGUE OF  
34 HEROIN OR FENTANYL SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR A

1 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IF THE EVIDENCE FOR THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION  
2 WAS OBTAINED SOLELY AS A RESULT OF THE PERSON SEEKING, PROVIDING, OR  
3 ASSISTING WITH THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

4 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

5 4–201.

6 **(J) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, A PROSECUTION**  
7 **OF A PERSON FOR A VIOLATION OF § 5–602.1 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE MAY**  
8 **BE BROUGHT IN:**

9 **(1) THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE VIOLATION OCCURRED; OR**

10 **(2) THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY**  
11 **OCCURRED.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2025.