

SENATE No. 1603

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to conduct a public health study of synthetic drugs in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1603

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1603) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to conduct a public health study of synthetic drugs in the commonwealth. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1439 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to conduct a public health study of synthetic drugs in the commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The department of public health is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a
2 comprehensive study of synthetic drugs, as well as their use, effects, prevalence, and health
3 implications. For the purposes of this act, the definition of the term “synthetic drug” shall
4 include, but not be limited to, synthetic opioids, fentanyl, carfentanil, synthetic cocaine, bath
5 salts, MDMA, synthetic marijuana, and synthetic psychedelics. The department shall investigate
6 and report on the use, effects, prevalence, and health implications of synthetic drugs in the
7 Commonwealth. The department of public health shall collect data on the types of synthetic
8 opioids, historical rates of usage and prevalence, as well as physical, mental, and emotional short
9 and long term impacts of the drug. The department of public health shall develop strategic and
10 legislative recommendations to reduce the use of synthetic drugs by way of public awareness

11 campaigns, educational curriculum, and rehabilitative therapies. The department of public health
12 shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts of legislation, with the
13 clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives on or before December 1, 2026.