

SENATE, No. 3256

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Reclassifies possession of psilocybin as disorderly persons offense.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/17/2020)

S3256 SCUTARI, RUIZ

2

1 AN ACT concerning psilocybin and amending N.J.S.2C:35-10.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. N.J.S.2C:35-10 is amended to read as follows:

7 2C:35-10. Possession, Use or Being Under the Influence, or
8 Failure to Make Lawful Disposition.

9 a. It is unlawful for any person, knowingly or purposely, to
10 obtain, or to possess, actually or constructively, a controlled
11 dangerous substance or controlled substance analog, unless the
12 substance was obtained directly, or pursuant to a valid prescription
13 or order form from a practitioner, while acting in the course of his
14 professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by
15 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-1 et seq.). Any person who violates this
16 section with respect to:

17 (1) A controlled dangerous substance, or its analog, classified in
18 Schedule I, II, III or IV other than those specifically covered in this
19 section, is guilty of a crime of the third degree except that,
20 notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:43-3, a
21 fine of up to \$35,000.00 may be imposed;

22 (2) Any controlled dangerous substance, or its analog, classified
23 in Schedule V, is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree except that,
24 notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:43-3, a
25 fine of up to \$15,000.00 may be imposed;

26 (3) Possession of more than 50 grams of marijuana, including
27 any adulterants or dilutants, or more than five grams of hashish is
28 guilty of a crime of the fourth degree, except that, notwithstanding
29 the provisions of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:43-3, a fine of up to
30 \$25,000.00 may be imposed; **[or]**

31 (4) Possession of 50 grams or less of marijuana, including any
32 adulterants or dilutants, or five grams or less of hashish is a
33 disorderly person or

34 (5) Possession of one ounce or less of psilocybin is a disorderly
35 persons offense.

36 Any person who commits any offense defined in this section
37 while on any property used for school purposes which is owned by
38 or leased to any elementary or secondary school or school board, or
39 within 1,000 feet of any such school property or a school bus, or
40 while on any school bus, and who is not sentenced to a term of
41 imprisonment, shall, in addition to any other sentence which the
42 court may impose, be required to perform not less than 100 hours of
43 community service.

44 b. Any person who uses or who is under the influence of any
45 controlled dangerous substance, or its analog, for a purpose other

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 than the treatment of sickness or injury as lawfully prescribed or
2 administered by a physician is a disorderly person.

3 In a prosecution under this subsection, it shall not be necessary
4 for the State to prove that the accused did use or was under the
5 influence of any specific drug, but it shall be sufficient for a
6 conviction under this subsection for the State to prove that the
7 accused did use or was under the influence of some controlled
8 dangerous substance, counterfeit controlled dangerous substance, or
9 controlled substance analog, by proving that the accused did
10 manifest physical and physiological symptoms or reactions caused
11 by the use of any controlled dangerous substance or controlled
12 substance analog.

13 c. Any person who knowingly obtains or possesses a controlled
14 dangerous substance or controlled substance analog in violation of
15 subsection a. of this section and who fails to voluntarily deliver the
16 substance to the nearest law enforcement officer is guilty of a
17 disorderly persons offense. Nothing in this subsection shall be
18 construed to preclude a prosecution or conviction for any other
19 offense defined in this title or any other statute.

20 (cf: P.L.1997, c.181, s.6)

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22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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27 Currently, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of
28 N.J.S.2C:35-10, possession of any amount of psilocybin, a Schedule
29 I controlled dangerous substance, is a crime of the third degree.
30 This bill would reclassify possession of psilocybin as a disorderly
31 persons offense, punishable by up to up to six months
32 imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.