



ENACTMENT NEWS

House Bill 171

Heroin possession/trafficking amount - felony

Effective Sept. 14, 2016

On June 14, 2016, Governor Kasich signed House Bill 171 (Reps. Dever and Blessing) into law. The bill becomes effective on September 14, 2016.

HB 171 reduces the amount of heroin required for imposing maximum felony penalties. Under existing law, a person who traffics or possesses 500 – 2,500 unit doses or 50-250 grams of heroin is subject to F1 sentencing. If the person traffics or possesses more than 2,500 unit doses or 250 grams, the person is considered a “major drug offender” and is subject to the maximum prison term for a felony of the first degree.

The bill lowers the amount necessary to impose the “major drug offender” classification and mandatory maximum term. Now, the higher penalty kicks in at 1,000 unit doses or 100 grams of heroin, rather than 2,000 unit doses or 250 grams.