

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1103

Introduced by Assembly Member Ward

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Sections 11213, 11480, and 11481, of the Health and Safety Code, relating to controlled substances.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1103, as introduced, Ward. Controlled substances: research.

Existing law, the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, classifies controlled substances into 5 designated schedules, with the most restrictive limitations generally placed on controlled substances classified in Schedule I, and the least restrictive limitations generally placed on controlled substances classified in Schedule V. Existing law creates a Research Advisory Panel, as specified, to conduct hearings on, and in other ways study, research projects concerning controlled substances. Existing law authorizes the panel to approve research projects that have been registered with the Attorney General concerning the nature and effects of cannabis or hallucinogenic drugs and the treatment of abuse of controlled substances. Existing law authorizes a person who, under federal law, is entitled to use controlled substances for the purpose of research, instruction, or analysis, to lawfully obtain and use those controlled substances upon approval by the panel, as specified.

The bill would exempt studies registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency into the therapeutic administration of psychedelics to treat specified disorders in military veterans and conducted at Veterans Affairs Administration facilities from authorization or review by the Research Advisory Panel.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11213 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:

3 11213. (a) Persons who, under applicable federal laws or
4 regulations, are lawfully entitled to use controlled substances for
5 the purpose of research, instruction, or analysis, may lawfully
6 obtain and use for such purposes ~~such substances as are defined~~
7 ~~as controlled substances~~ *controlled substances, as defined* in this
8 division, *for those purposes* upon approval for use of such
9 controlled substances in bona fide research, instruction, or analysis
10 by the Research Advisory Panel established pursuant to Section
11 11480 and 11481.

12 ~~Such~~

13 (b) *Such* research, instruction, or analysis shall be carried on
14 only under the auspices of the head of a research project ~~which~~
15 *that* has been approved by the Research Advisory Panel pursuant
16 to Section 11480 or Section 11481. Complete records of receipts,
17 stocks at hand, and use of these controlled substances shall be kept.

18 (c) *Notwithstanding any other law, a research study registered*
19 *with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency into the*
20 *therapeutic administration of psychedelics to treat military veterans*
21 *with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury,*
22 *substance use disorders, and treatment-resistant depression, and*
23 *conducted at a Veterans Affairs Administration facility, is exempt*
24 *from authorization or review by the Research Advisory Panel.*

25 SEC. 2. Section 11480 of the Health and Safety Code is
26 amended to read:

27 11480. (a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to
28 encourage further research into the nature and effects of cannabis
29 and hallucinogenic drugs and to coordinate research efforts on
30 such subjects.

31 (b) There is a Research Advisory Panel that consists of a
32 representative of the State Department of Health Services, a
33 representative of the California State Board of Pharmacy, the State
34 Public Health Officer, a representative of the Attorney General, a
35 representative of the University of California who shall be a

1 pharmacologist, a physician, or a person holding a doctorate degree
2 in the health sciences, a representative of a private university in
3 this state who shall be a pharmacologist, a physician, or a person
4 holding a doctorate degree in the health sciences, a representative
5 of a statewide professional medical society in this state who shall
6 be engaged in the private practice of medicine and shall be
7 experienced in treating controlled substance dependency, a
8 representative appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the
9 Governor who shall have experience in drug abuse, cancer, or
10 controlled substance research and who is either a registered nurse,
11 licensed pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)
12 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, or other health
13 professional. The Governor shall annually designate the private
14 university and the professional medical society represented on the
15 panel. Members of the panel shall be appointed by the heads of
16 the entities to be represented, and they shall serve at the pleasure
17 of the appointing power.

18 (c) The Research Advisory Panel shall appoint two special
19 members to the Research Advisory Panel, who shall serve at the
20 pleasure of the Research Advisory Panel only during the period
21 Article 6 (commencing with Section 11260) of Chapter 5 remains
22 effective. The additional members shall be physicians and surgeons,
23 and who are board certified in oncology, ophthalmology, or
24 psychiatry.

25 (d) The panel shall annually select a chairperson from among
26 its members.

27 (e) The panel may hold hearings on, and in other ways study,
28 research projects concerning cannabis or hallucinogenic drugs in
29 this state. Members of the panel shall serve without compensation,
30 but shall be reimbursed for any actual and necessary expenses
31 incurred in connection with the performance of their duties.

32 (f) The panel may approve research projects, which have been
33 registered by the Attorney General, into the nature and effects of
34 cannabis or hallucinogenic drugs, and shall inform the Attorney
35 General of the head of the approved research projects that are
36 entitled to receive quantities of cannabis pursuant to Section 11478.

37 (g) The panel may withdraw approval of a research project at
38 any time, and when approval is withdrawn shall notify the head
39 of the research project to return any quantities of cannabis to the
40 Attorney General.

1 (h) The panel shall report annually to the Legislature and the
2 Governor those research projects approved by the panel, the nature
3 of each research project, and, where available, the conclusions of
4 the research project.

5 (i) *Notwithstanding any other law, a research study registered*
6 *with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency into the*
7 *therapeutic administration of psychedelics to treat military veterans*
8 *with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury,*
9 *substance use disorders, and treatment-resistant depression, and*
10 *conducted at a Veterans Affairs Administration facility, is exempt*
11 *from authorization or review by the Research Advisory Panel.*

12 SEC. 3. Section 11481 of the Health and Safety Code is
13 amended to read:

14 11481. (a) The Research Advisory Panel may hold hearings
15 on, and in other ways study, research projects concerning the
16 treatment of abuse of controlled substances.

17 ~~The~~

18 (b) *The* panel may approve research projects, which have been
19 registered by the Attorney General, concerning the treatment of
20 abuse of controlled substances and shall inform the chief of such
21 approval. The panel may withdraw approval of a research project
22 at any time and when approval is withdrawn shall so notify the
23 chief.

24 ~~The~~

25 (c) *The* panel shall, annually and in the manner determined by
26 the panel, report to the Legislature and the Governor those research
27 projects approved by the panel, the nature of each research project,
28 and where available, the conclusions of the research project.

29 (d) *Notwithstanding any other law, a research study registered*
30 *with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency into the*
31 *therapeutic administration of psychedelics to treat military veterans*
32 *with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury,*
33 *substance use disorders, and treatment-resistant depression, and*
34 *conducted at a Veterans Affairs Administration facility, is exempt*
35 *from authorization or review by the Research Advisory Panel.*