



**H.B. 202**

123rd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Winkler, Allen, Brading, Ford, Haines, Mottley, O'Brien, Padgett,  
Pringle, Sulzer, Terwilleger, Tiberi, Van Vyven, Young**

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

- Removes from the offense of tampering with records the requirement that the person have knowledge that the person does not have privilege to perform the prohibited acts.
- Expands the offense of tampering with records to additionally prohibit a person without privilege to do so and with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud from tampering with any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug or with the contents of any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug.
- Renames the offense of tampering with records to be "tampering with records or drugs."
- Includes within the definition of "drug abuse offense" the offense of tampering with records or drugs when the violation involves any record required to be kept by the Controlled Substances Laws or the Pharmacy and Dangerous Drug Laws or that involves any package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs or the contents of any package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs.
- Makes ineligible for treatment in lieu of conviction an offender charged with tampering with records or drugs when the violation involves tampering with any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug or with the contents of any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug.

---

## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Tampering with records or drugs

#### Existing law

Existing law prohibits a person, knowing the person has no privilege to do so, and with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, from doing any of the following (sec. 2913.42(A)):

- (1) Falsifying, destroying, removing, concealing, altering, defacing, or mutilating any writing, computer software, data, or record;
- (2) Uttering any writing or record, knowing it to have been tampered with as described in paragraph (1).

A person who violates this prohibition is guilty of "tampering with records." Generally, if the offense does not involve data or computer software, tampering with records is one of the following:

- (1) A misdemeanor of the first degree if (2), (3), or (4), below, do not apply.
- (2) If the writing or record is a will unrevoked at the time of the offense, tampering with records is a felony of the fifth degree.

(3) Except when (4), below, applies, if the offense involves data or computer software, tampering with records is whichever of the following that is applicable: (a) if the value of the data or computer software involved in the offense or the loss to the victim is less than \$500, a misdemeanor of the first degree, (b) if the value of the data or computer software or the loss to the victim is \$500 or more and is less than \$5,000, a felony of the fifth degree, (c) if the value of the data or computer software or the loss to the victim is \$5,000 or more and is less than \$100,000, a felony of the fourth degree, or (d) if the value of the data or computer software or the loss to the victim is \$100,000 or more or if the offense is committed for the purpose of devising or executing a scheme to defraud or to obtain property or services and the value of the property or services or the loss to the victim is \$5,000 or more, a felony of the third degree.

- (4) If the writing, data, computer software, or record is kept by or belongs to a local, state, or federal governmental entity, tampering with records is a felony of the third degree. (Sec. 2913.42(B).)

### **Operation of the bill**

**Revised mental state.** The bill removes the knowledge component from the element of the offense that require that the offender know the person has no privilege to perform the prohibited acts. Thus, under the bill, the revised existing prohibitions prohibit a person, *without* privilege to do so and with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, from doing any of the following (sec. 2913.42(A)):

(1) Falsifying, destroying, removing, concealing, altering, defacing, or mutilating any writing, computer software, data, or record;

(2) Uttering any writing or record, knowing it to have been tampered with as described in paragraph (1).

The bill does not change the penalty for these existing prohibitions.

**Tampering with dangerous drugs.** The bill also prohibits tampering with dangerous drugs. The bill prohibits a person, without privilege to do so and with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, from tampering with any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug or with the contents of any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug (sec. 2913.42(A)(3)).

**Renaming of offense.** The bill renames the offense of "tampering with records" to be "tampering with records or drugs." The penalties for tampering with records or drugs are as follows (sec. 2913.42(B)):

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the offense does not involve data or computer software, tampering with records or drugs is whichever of the following is applicable: (a) generally, a misdemeanor of the first degree, (b) if the offense involves a writing or record that is a will unrevoked at the time of the offense (existing law) *or that is a record required to be kept by the Controlled Substances Laws or Pharmacy and Dangerous Drug Laws* (added by the bill), a felony of the fifth degree, or (c) *if the offense involves a package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs or involves the contents of a package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs, a felony of the second degree* (added by the bill).

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the offense involves data or computer software, tampering with records is generally whichever of the following is applicable: (a) generally, a misdemeanor of the first degree, (b) *if the data involves records required to be kept by the Controlled Substances Laws or Pharmacy and Dangerous Drug Laws and the value of the data or computer*

*software involved in the offense or the loss to the victim is less than \$5,000 (added by the bill) or if the value of the data or computer software involved in the offense or the loss to the victim is \$500 or more and is less than \$5,000 (existing law), a felony of the fifth degree, (c) if the value of the data or computer software involved in the offense or the loss to the victim is \$5,000 or more and is less than \$100,000, a felony of the fourth degree, and (d) if the value of the data or computer software involved in the offense or the loss to the victim is \$100,000 or more or if the offense is committed for the purpose of devising or executing a scheme to defraud or to obtain property or services and the value of the property or services or the loss to the victim is \$5,000 or more, a felony of the third degree.*

(3) If the writing, data, computer software, or record is kept by or belongs to a local, state, or federal governmental entity, a felony of the third degree (existing law).

**Tampering with records or drugs made a "drug abuse offense" in certain circumstances.** The bill adds to the definition of the phrase "drug abuse offense" (see "Definitions," below) the offense of tampering with records or drugs when the violation involves any record required to be kept by the Controlled Substances Laws or the Pharmacy and Dangerous Drug Laws or that involves any package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs or the contents of any package or receptacle containing dangerous drugs (sec. 2925.01(G)).

The phrase "drug abuse offense" is used in 32 Revised Code sections, and the bill subjects a person convicted of tampering with records or drugs in the manner specified above to the application of those sections. The effects of revising the definition of "drug abuse offense" include the following:

(1) A previous conviction of tampering with records or drugs in the specified manner enhances the penalty of a person who pleads guilty to or is convicted of certain drug offenses (see e.g., sec. 2925.11--not in the bill).

(2) A person who pleads guilty to or is convicted of tampering with records or drugs in the specified manner may be subject to the criminal and civil forfeiture provisions in the Drug Offense Forfeiture Laws (secs. 2925.42 and 2925.43--not in the bill).

(3) When there is reasonable ground to believe that tampering with records or drugs in the specified manner has been committed, specified peace officers may arrest and detain until a warrant can be obtained any person whom the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe is guilty of the violation (sec. 2935.03--not in the bill).

(4) In some circumstances, a person convicted of tampering with records or drugs in the described circumstances would be considered a repeat offender who is ineligible for a pre-trial diversion program (sec. 2935.36). (This effect is duplicative, since tampering with records or drugs is a theft offense as well; the person would be subject to this possibility without the revised definition.)

### **Treatment in lieu of conviction**

#### **Operation of the bill**

Under the bill, an offender is not eligible for treatment in lieu of conviction if the offender is charged with tampering with records or drugs when violation involves tampering with any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug or with the contents of any package or receptacle containing any dangerous drug (sec. 2951.041(B)(1)(f)).

#### **Existing law**

Under existing law, if a court has reason to believe that an offender charged with a felony or misdemeanor is a drug dependent person or is in danger of becoming a drug dependent person, the court must accept, prior to the entry of a plea, that offender's request for treatment in lieu of conviction. If the offender requests treatment in lieu of conviction, the court must stay all criminal proceedings pending the outcome of the hearing to determine whether the offender is a person eligible for treatment in lieu of conviction. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court must enter its findings and accept the offender's plea.

An offender who requests treatment in lieu of conviction is eligible for that treatment if the court finds that:

(1) The offender's drug dependence or danger of drug dependence was a factor leading to the criminal activity with which the offender is charged, and rehabilitation through treatment would substantially reduce the likelihood of additional criminal activity.

(2) The offender has been accepted into a program licensed by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, specified programs certified by the Department, a public or private hospital, the veterans administration or other agency of the federal government, private care or treatment rendered by a physician or a psychologist licensed in the state, or other appropriate drug treatment facility or program.

(3) If the offender is convicted of a misdemeanor, the offender would be eligible for probation, except that a finding of any of specified criteria cause the offender to be conclusively ineligible for treatment in lieu of conviction.

(4) If the offender is convicted of a felony, the offender would be eligible for a community control sanction.

(5) The offender is not a repeat offender or dangerous offender;

(6) The offender is not charged with corrupting another with drugs (sec. 2925.02), a trafficking offense (sec. 2925.03), illegal manufacture of drugs or cultivation of marijuana (sec. 2925.04), or a drug possession offense (sec. 2925.11) that is not a minor drug possession offense.

Upon a finding that the offender is eligible for treatment in lieu of conviction and if the offender enters a plea of guilty or no contest, the court may stay all criminal proceedings and order the offender to a period of rehabilitation. If a plea of not guilty is entered, a trial must precede further consideration of the offender's request for treatment in lieu of conviction. (Sec. 2951.041(B).)

An eligible offender must be placed under the control and supervision of the county probation department or the Adult Parole Authority as if on probation or under a community control sanction. The court must order a specific period of rehabilitation and may extend the period of rehabilitation, but the total period must not exceed three years. The period of rehabilitation must be conditioned upon the offender's voluntary entrance into an appropriate drug treatment facility or program, faithful submission to prescribed treatment, and any other conditions that the court orders.

If the offender successfully completes treatment and is rehabilitated, the court may dismiss the charges pending against the offender. If the offender successfully completes treatment and is rehabilitated or has obtained maximum benefits from treatment and also has completed the period of rehabilitation and other conditions ordered by the court, the court must dismiss the charges pending against the offender. If the offender fails treatment, fails to submit to or follow the prescribed treatment, or becomes a discipline problem, if the offender does not satisfactorily complete the period of rehabilitation or the other conditions ordered by the court, or if the offender violates the conditions of the period of rehabilitation, the offender must be arrested and removed from the facility or program. If the court determines at a hearing that the offender failed treatment, failed to submit to or follow the prescribed treatment, did not satisfactorily complete the period of rehabilitation or any other condition ordered by the court, or

violated any condition of the period of rehabilitation, it immediately must enter an adjudication of guilt and impose upon the offender a term of imprisonment.

If, on the motion of the offender, the court finds that the offender has successfully completed the period of rehabilitation, is rehabilitated, is no longer drug dependent or in danger of becoming drug dependent, and has completed all other conditions, the court must dismiss the proceeding against the offender. Successful completion of a period of rehabilitation must be without adjudication of guilt and is not a criminal conviction for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law and upon conviction of a crime, and the court may order the sealing of the offender's records in the manner provided in the Sealing of Criminal Records law. (Sec. 2951.041.)

### **Technical changes**

The bill makes technical changes to sections 2913.02 and 2913.51.

### **Definitions**

#### **Dangerous drug**

"Dangerous drug" means any of the following (sec. 2913.01(CC) by reference to sec. 4729.01(F)--not in the bill):

(1) Any drug to which either of the following applies:

(a) Under the "Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act," 52 Stat. 1040 (1938), 21 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, the drug is required to bear a label containing the legend "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription" or "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian" or any similar restrictive statement, or the drug may be dispensed only upon a prescription.

(b) Under the Controlled Substances Laws and the Pure Food and Drug Laws, the drug may be dispensed only upon a prescription.

(2) Any drug that contains a schedule V controlled substance and that is exempt from the Controlled Substances Laws or to which those laws do not apply;

(3) Any drug intended for administration by injection into the human body other than through a natural orifice of the human body.

### **Drug abuse offense**

Under existing law, "drug abuse offense" means any of the following (sec. 2925.01(G)):

(1) Theft of drugs (sec. 2913.02(A) in specified circumstances), corrupting another with drugs (sec. 2925.02), trafficking offenses (sec. 2925.03), illegal manufacture of drugs or cultivation of marijuana (sec. 2925.04), funding of drug or marijuana trafficking (sec. 2925.05), illegal administration or distribution of anabolic steroids (sec. 2925.06), drug possession offenses (sec. 2925.11), possessing drug abuse instruments (sec. 2925.12), permitting drug abuse (sec. 2925.13), deception to obtain a dangerous drug (sec. 2925.22), illegal processing of drug documents (sec. 2925.23), abusing harmful intoxicants (sec. 2925.31), trafficking in harmful intoxicants (sec. 2925.32), improperly dispensing or distributing nitrous oxide (sec. 2925.32), illegal dispensing of drug samples (sec. 2925.36), or possession of or trafficking in counterfeit controlled substances (sec. 2925.37);

(2) A violation of an existing or former law of Ohio or any other state or of the United States that is substantially equivalent to any offense listed in paragraph (1), above;

(3) An offense under an existing or former law of Ohio or any other state, or of the United States, of which planting, cultivating, harvesting, processing, making, manufacturing, producing, shipping, transporting, delivering, acquiring, possessing, storing, distributing, dispensing, selling, inducing another to use, administering to another, using, or otherwise dealing with a controlled substance is an element;

(4) A conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or complicity in committing or attempting to commit any offense described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), above.

### **Prescriber**

"Prescriber" means an individual who is authorized by law to prescribe drugs or dangerous drugs or drug therapy related devices in the course of the individual's professional practice, including only the following (sec. 2913.01(CC) by reference to sec. 4729.01(I)--not in the bill): (1) a licensed dentist, (2) an advanced practice nurse approved to prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices, (3) an optometrist licensed to practice optometry under a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate, (4) a physician authorized to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatry, and (5) a licensed veterinarian.

**Tamper**

"Tamper" means to change, substitute, or alter, by or through deception, when the change, substitution, or alteration is not done pursuant to a valid order of a licensed prescriber in the normal course of professional practice (sec. 2913.01(DD)).

---

**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-23-99	p. 225

H0202-I.123/jc