WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 60A ARTICLE 10

§60A-10-1. Short title.

The provisions of this article shall be known and referred to as the Methamphetamine Laboratory Eradication Act.

§60A-10-2. Purpose; findings.

The Legislature finds:

(a) That the illegal production and distribution of methamphetamine is an increasing problem nationwide and particularly prevalent in rural states such as West Virginia.

(b) That methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that can be manufactured in small and portable laboratories. These laboratories are operated by individuals who manufacture the drug in a clandestine and unsafe manner, often resulting in explosions and fires that can injure not only the individuals involved, but their families, neighbors, law-enforcement officers and firemen.

(c) That use of methamphetamine can result in fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain damage, liver damage, blood clots, chronic depression, hallucinations, violent and aggressive behavior, malnutrition, disturbed personality development, deficient immune system and psychosis. Children born to mothers who are abusers of methamphetamine can be born addicted and suffer birth defects, low birth weight, tremors, excessive crying, attention deficit disorder and behavior disorders.

(d) That in addition to the physical consequences to an individual who uses methamphetamine, usage of the drug also produces an increase in automobile accidents, explosions and fires, increased criminal activity, increased medical costs due to emergency room visits, increases in domestic violence, increased spread of infectious diseases and a loss in worker productivity.

(e) That environmental damage is another consequence of the methamphetamine epidemic. Each pound of methamphetamine produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste. Chemicals and byproducts that result from the manufacture of methamphetamine are often poured into plumbing systems, storm drains or directly onto the ground. Clean up of methamphetamine laboratories is extremely resource-intensive, with an average remediation cost of $5,000.

(f) That it is in the best interest of every West Virginian to develop a viable solution to address the growing methamphetamine problem in the State of West Virginia. The Legislature finds that restricting access to over-the-counter drugs used to facilitate production of methamphetamine is necessary to protect the public safety of all West Virginians.

(g) That it is further in the best interests of every West Virginian to create impediments to the manufacture of methamphetamine by requiring persons purchasing chemicals necessary to the process to provide identification.

§60A-10-3. Definitions.

In this article:

(a) "Board of Pharmacy" or "board" means the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy established by the provisions of article five, chapter thirty of this code.

(b) "Designated precursor" means any drug product made subject to the requirements of this article by the provisions of section ten of this article.

(c) "Distributor" means any person within this state or another state, other than a manufacturer or wholesaler, who sells, delivers, transfers or in any manner furnishes a drug product to any person who is not the ultimate user or consumer of the product.

(d) "Drug product" means a pharmaceutical product that contains ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine or a substance identified on the supplemental list provided in section seven of this article which may be sold without a prescription and which is labeled for use by a consumer in accordance with the requirements of the laws and rules of this state and the federal government.

(e) "Ephedrine " means ephedrine, its salts or optical isomers or salts of optical isomers.

(f) "Manufacturer" means any person within this state who produces, compounds, packages or in any manner initially prepares for sale or use any drug product or any such person in another state if they cause the products to be compounded, packaged or transported into this state.

(g) "National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators" or "NADDI" means the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1989, made up of members who are responsible for investigating and prosecuting pharmaceutical drug diversion, and that facilitates cooperation between law enforcement, health care professionals, state regulatory agencies and pharmaceutical manufacturers in the investigation and prevention of prescription drug abuse and diversion.

(h) "Multi-State Real-Time Tracking System" or "MSRTTS" means the real-time electronic logging system provided by NADDI at no cost to states that have legislation requiring real-time electronic monitoring of precursor purchases, and agree to use the system. MSRTTS is used by pharmacies and law enforcement to track sales of over-the-counter (OTC) cold and allergy medications containing precursors to the illegal drug, methamphetamine.

(i) "Phenylpropanolamine" means phenylpropanolamine, its salts, optical isomers and salts of optical isomers.

(j) "Pseudoephedrine" means pseudoephedrine, its salts, optical isomers and salts of optical isomers.

(k) "Precursor" means any substance which may be used along with other substances as a component in the production and distribution of illegal methamphetamine.

(l) "Pharmacist" means an individual currently licensed by this state to engage in the practice of pharmacist care as defined in article five, chapter thirty of this code.

(m) "Pharmacy intern" has the same meaning as the term "intern" as set forth in section one-b, article five, chapter thirty of this code.

(n) "Pharmacy" means any drugstore, apothecary or place within this state where drugs are dispensed and sold at retail or display for sale at retail and pharmacist care is provided outside of this state where drugs are dispensed and pharmacist care is provided to residents of this state.

(o) "Pharmacy counter" means an area in the pharmacy restricted to the public where controlled substances are stored and housed and where controlled substances may only be sold, transferred or dispensed by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician.

(p) "Pharmacy technician" means a registered technician who meets the requirements for registration as set forth in article five, chapter thirty of this code.

(q) "Retail establishment" means any entity or person within this state who sells, transfers or distributes goods, including over-the-counter drug products, to an ultimate consumer.

(r) "Schedule V" means the schedule of controlled substances set out in section two hundred twelve, section two of this chapter.

(s) "Superintendent of the State Police" or "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police as set forth in section five, article two, chapter fifteen of this code.

(t) "Wholesaler" means any person within this state or another state, other than a manufacturer, who sells, transfers or in any manner furnishes a drug product to any other person in this state for the purpose of being resold.

§60A-10-4. Purchase, receipt, acquisition and possession of substances to be used as precursor to manufacture of methamphetamine or another controlled substance; offenses; exceptions; penalties.

(a) A pharmacy may not sell, transfer, or dispense to the same person, and a person may not purchase more than three and six-tenths grams per day, more than seven and two-tenths grams in a 30-day period, or more than 86 and four-tenths grams annually of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine without a prescription. The limits shall apply to the total amount of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine contained in the products, and not the overall weight of the products.

(1) Any person who knowingly purchases, receives, or otherwise possesses more than seven and two-tenths grams in a 30-day period of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine in any form without a prescription is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in a jail for not more than one year, fined not more than $1,000, or both fined and confined.

(2) Any pharmacy, wholesaler, or other entity operating the retail establishment which sells, transfers, or dispenses a product in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000 for the first offense, or more than $10,000 for each subsequent offense.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), subsection (a), of this section, any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of the provisions of said subdivision or a statute or ordinance of the United States or another state which contains the same essential elements is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than five years, fined not more than $25,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:

(1) Products dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription;

(2) Drug products which are for pediatric use primarily intended for administration to children under the age of 12;

(3) Drug products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine, their salts, or optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers, or other designated precursor which have been determined by the Board of Pharmacy to be in a form which is not feasible for being used for the manufacture of methamphetamine; or

(4) Persons lawfully possessing drug products in their capacities as distributors, wholesalers, manufacturers, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, or health care professionals.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, any person who knowingly

possesses any amount of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, or other designated precursor with the intent to use it in the manufacture of methamphetamine or who knowingly possesses a substance containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine or their salts, optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers in a state or form which is, or has been, altered or converted from the state or form in which these chemicals are, or were, commercially distributed is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than two nor more than 10 years, fined not more than $25,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(e) (1) Any pharmacy, wholesaler, manufacturer, or distributor of drug products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, their salts, or optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers, or other designated precursor shall obtain a registration annually from the State Board of Pharmacy as described in §60A-10-6 of this code. Any such pharmacy, wholesaler, manufacturer, or distributor shall keep complete records of all sales and transactions as provided in §60A-10-8 of this code. The records shall be gathered and maintained pursuant to legislative rule promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy.

(2) Any drug products possessed without a registration as provided in this section are subject to forfeiture upon conviction for a violation of this section.

(3) In addition to any administrative penalties provided by law, any violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine in an amount not more than $10,000.

§60A-10-5. Restrictions on the sale, transfer or delivery of certain drug products; penalties.

(a) No pharmacy or individual may display, offer for sale or place a drug product containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine or other designated precursor where the public may freely access the drug product. All such drug products or designated precursors shall be placed behind a pharmacy counter where access is restricted to a pharmacist, a pharmacy intern, a pharmacy technician or other pharmacy employee.

(b) All storage of drug products regulated by the provisions of this section shall be in a controlled and locked access location that is not accessible by the general public and shall maintain strict inventory control standards and complete records of quantity of the product maintained in bulk form.

(c) No pharmacy may sell, deliver or provide any drug product regulated by the provisions of this section to any person who is under the age of eighteen.

(d) If a drug product regulated by the provisions of this section is transferred, sold or delivered, the individual, pharmacy or retail establishment transferring, selling or delivering the drug product shall offer to have a pharmacist provide patient counseling, as defined by article five, chapter thirty of this code and the rules of the Board of Pharmacy, to the person purchasing, receiving or acquiring the drug product in order to improve the proper use of the drug product and to discuss contraindications.

(e) If a drug product regulated by the provisions of this section is transferred, sold or delivered, the individual, pharmacy or retail establishment transferring, selling or delivering the drug product shall require the person purchasing, receiving or otherwise acquiring the drug product to:

(1) Produce a valid government-issued photo identification showing his or her date of birth; and

(2) Sign a logbook, in either paper or electronic format, containing the information set forth in subsection (b), section eight of this article and attesting to the validity of the information.

(f) Any person who knowingly makes a false representation or statement pursuant to the requirements of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be confined in a jail for not more than six months, fined not more than $5,000, or both fined and confined.

(g) (1) The pharmacist, pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician processing the transaction shall determine that the name entered in the logbook corresponds to the name provided on the identification.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2013, a pharmacy or retail establishment shall, before completing a sale under this section, electronically submit the information required by section eight of this article to the Multi-State Real-Time Tracking System (MSRTTS) administered by the

National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI): Provided, That the system is available to retailers in the state without a charge for accessing the system. This system shall be capable of generating a stop-sale alert, which shall be a notification that completion of the sale would result in the seller or purchaser violating the quantity limits set forth in this article. The seller may not complete the sale if the system generates a stop-sale alert. The system shall contain an override function that may be used by a dispenser of a drug product who has a reasonable fear of imminent bodily harm if he or she does not complete a sale. Each instance in which the override function is utilized shall be logged by the system. Absent negligence, wantonness, recklessness or deliberate misconduct, any retailer utilizing the Multi-State Real-Time Tracking System in accordance with this subdivision may not be civilly liable as a result of any act or omission in carrying out the duties required by this subdivision and is immune from liability to any third party unless the retailer has violated any provision of this subdivision in relation to a claim brought for the violation.

(3) If a pharmacy or retail establishment selling a nonprescription product containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine experiences mechanical or electronic failure of the Multi-State Real-Time Tracking System and is unable to comply with the electronic sales tracking requirement, the pharmacy or retail establishment shall maintain a written log or an alternative electronic record keeping mechanism until such time as the pharmacy or retail establishment is able to comply with the electronic sales tracking requirement.

(h) This section does not apply to drug products that are dispensed pursuant to a prescription, are pediatric products primarily intended for administration, according to label instructions, to children under twelve years of age.

(i) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine in an amount not more than $10,000.

(j) The provisions of this section supersede and preempt all local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to the sale of any compounds, mixtures or preparation containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine.

§60A-10-6. Registration to sell, manufacture or distribute products; rule-making authority.

The State Board of Pharmacy shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to require that every wholesaler, manufacturer or distributor of any drug product containing as their single active ingredient ephedrine or pseudoephedrine or a substance identified on the supplemental list provided for in section seven of this article shall obtain a registration and permit issued by the state Board of Pharmacy to sell, distribute or transfer the product containing as their single active ingredient ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine.

§60A-10-7. Restricted products; rule-making authority.

(a) On or before July 1, 2005, the Board of Pharmacy shall promulgate emergency and legislative rules pursuant to the provision of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement a program wherein the Board of Pharmacy shall consult with the Superintendent of the State Police in identifying drug products which are a designated precursor, in addition to those that contain ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine, that are commonly being used in the production and distribution of methamphetamine. Those drug products which the Superintendent of the State Police have demonstrated by empirical evidence are commonly used in the manufacture of methamphetamine shall be added to a supplemental list and shall be subject to all of the restrictions of this article. These rules established pursuant to this section shall include:

(1) A process whereby pharmacies are made aware of all drug products that contain ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine that will be listed as a Schedule V substance and must be sold, transferred or dispensed from behind a pharmacy counter;

(2) A process whereby pharmacies and retail establishments are made aware of additional drug products added to Schedule V that are required to be placed behind the pharmacy counter for sale, transfer or distribution can be periodically reviewed and updated.

(b) At any time after July 1, 2005, the Board of Pharmacy, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of the State Police, shall promulgate emergency and legislative rules pursuant to the provision of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement an updated supplemental list of products containing the controlled substances ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine as an active ingredient or any other drug used as a precursor in the manufacture of methamphetamine, which the Superintendent of the State Police has demonstrated by empirical evidence is being used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. This listing process shall comport with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

§60A-10-8. Reporting requirements; confidentiality.

(a) Until January 1, 2013, upon each sale, retail, transfer or distribution of any drug product referred to in section seven of this article or another designated precursor, the pharmacist, pharmacy intern, or pharmacy technician making the sale, transfer or distribution shall report the following information for inclusion in the central repository established and maintained by the Board of Pharmacy:

(1) The date of the transaction;

(2) The name, address and driver's license or state-issued identification number of the person; and

(3) The name, quantity of packages and total gram weight of the product or products purchased, received or otherwise acquired.

(b) The information required to be reported by this section shall be reported by paper log maintained at the point of sale: Provided, That, beginning on January 1, 2007, reporting shall be by electronic transmission to the Board of Pharmacy no more frequently than once a week. Beginning on January 1, 2013, the electronic transmission of the information required to be reported in subsection (a) of this section shall be reported to the MSRTTS, and shall be made in real time at the time of the transaction.

(c) The information required by this section shall be the property of the state. The information shall be disclosed as appropriate to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and to state and local law-enforcement agencies. The information shall not be accessed, used or shared for any purpose other than to ensure compliance with this article and federal law. NADDI shall forward state transaction records in the MSRTTS to the West Virginia State Police weekly, and provide real-time access to MSRTTS information through the MSRTTS online portal to authorized agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and certified law enforcement in this and other states for use in the detection of violations of this article or of federal laws designed to prevent the illegal use, production or distribution of methamphetamine.

§60A-10-9. Persons mandated to report suspected injuries related to methamphetamine production; failure to report; penalty.

(a) When any medical, dental or mental health professional, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer or emergency medical services personnel has reason to believe that an injury is the direct result of exposure to the production of methamphetamine such person shall immediately, and not more than forty-eight hours after such suspicion arises, report the circumstances or cause a report to be made to a state, county or local law-enforcement agency.

(b) Any person required by this section to report a suspected methamphetamine-related injury who knowingly and intentionally fails to do so or knowingly and intentionally prevents another person acting reasonably from doing so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $100 or imprisoned in jail not more than ten days, or both fined and imprisoned.

§60A-10-10. Authority of the superintendent of the State Police to leverage grant funds.

The Superintendent of the State Police is encouraged to leverage available grant funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, the federal government, governmental agencies and other organizations or institutions, make and sign any agreement to and perform any act that may be necessary to effectuate these grants. The grant funds shall be dedicated toward a drug court, to provide training programs to state and local prosecutors and law-enforcement agents for the investigation and prosecution of methamphetamine offenses and to enhance funding available to jails.

§60A-10-11. Reporting to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability.

Beginning July 1, 2013, the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police shall submit an annual report no later than July 1 of each year to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability with data and statistics related to methamphetamine use, production and distribution in this state including, but not limited to, the number of clandestine methamphetamine lab incidents per year.

§60A-10-12. Exposure of children to methamphetamine manufacturing; penalties.

(a) Any person eighteen years of age or older who knowingly causes or permits a minor to be present in a location where methamphetamine is manufactured or attempted to be manufactured is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than two nor more than ten years, fined not more than $10,000, or both.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person eighteen years of age or older who knowingly causes or permits a minor to be present in a location where methamphetamine is manufactured or attempted to be manufactured and the child thereby suffers serious bodily injury is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than three nor more than fifteen years, fined not more than $25,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(c) As used in subsection (b) of this section, “serious bodily injury” shall have the same meaning as this term is defined in section one, article eight-b, chapter sixty-one of this code.

§60A-10-13. Exposure of first responders to manufacture methamphetamine; penalties.

Any person who, as a result of or in the course of unlawfully and intentionally manufacturing methamphetamine, causes a police officer, probation officer, humane officer, emergency medical service personnel, firefighter, State Fire Marshal or employee, Division of Forestry employee, county correctional employee or state correctional employee acting in his or her official capacity to ingest, inhale or be dermally exposed to a chemical, product, byproduct, residue or substance involved in the manufacture or attempted manufacture of such controlled substance, without prior knowledge of such, and thereby causes bodily injury to such persons, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than five hundred nor more than $5,000 and confined in a correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than five years. A violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense from the manufacture or attempt to manufacture methamphetamine.

§60A-10-14. Illegal storage of anhydrous ammonia; exceptions.

(a) Any person who stores or conveys anhydrous ammonia in a container that:

(1) Is not approved by the United States Department of Transportation to hold anhydrous ammonia; or

(2) Was not constructed to meet state and federal industrial health and safety standards for holding anhydrous ammonia is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be confined in a state correctional facility for a determinate period not to exceed five years, fined not more than $10,000, or both.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons authorized by federal or state law, rule or regulation to handle and dispose of hazardous waste or toxic substances while engaged in such conduct.

(c) Any damages arising out of the unlawful possession of, storage of or tampering with anhydrous ammonia equipment shall be the sole responsibility of the person or persons unlawfully possessing, storing or tampering with anhydrous ammonia. In no case shall liability for damages arising out of the unlawful possession of, storage of or tampering with anhydrous ammonia or anhydrous ammonia equipment extend to the lawful owner, installer, maintainer, designer, manufacturer, possessor or seller of the anhydrous ammonia or anhydrous ammonia equipment, unless such damages arise out of the acts or omissions of the owner, installer, maintainer, designer, manufacturer, possessor or seller that constitute negligent misconduct to abide by the laws regarding anhydrous ammonia possession and storage.

§60A-10-15. Iodine solution greater than two percent; prescription or permit required; offenses; penalties.

(a) A person may offer to sell, sell or distribute an iodine matrix only:

(1) As a prescription drug, pursuant to a prescription issued by a veterinarian or physician licensed within the state; or

(2) To a person who is actively engaged in the legal practice of animal husbandry of livestock.

(b) Prescriptions issued under this section:

(1) Shall provide for a specified number of refills;

(2) May be issued by any means authorized by the Board of Pharmacy; and

(3) May be filled by a person other than the veterinarian or physician issuing the prescription.

(c) A person offering iodine matrix for sale:

(1) Shall store the iodine matrix so that the public does not have access to the iodine matrix without the direct assistance or intervention of a retail employee;

(2) Shall keep a record, which may consist of sales receipts of each person purchasing iodine matrix; and

(3) Shall, if necessary to ascertain the identity of the purchaser, ask for proof of identification from the purchaser.

(d) A person engaging in a regulated transaction pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not possess with intent to distribute or distribute an iodine matrix to a person who:

(1) Does not present a prescription or is not engaged in animal husbandry, as required under subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) Is not excepted under subsection (h) of this section.

(e) Any person who violates subsection (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $10,000.

(f) A person shall not:

(1) Possess iodine crystals and/or an iodine matrix without proof of obtaining the crystals and/or solution in compliance with subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) Possess with intent to distribute or distribute iodine crystals and/or an iodine matrix in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(g) Any person who violates subsection (f) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $10,000.

(h) The provisions of subdivision (1), subsection (f) of this section do not apply to:

(1) A public or private regularly established primary or secondary school or a public or private institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(2) A veterinarian licensed to practice pursuant to the provisions of article ten, chapter thirty of this code;

(3) A health care facility; or

(4) A veterinarian, physician, pharmacist, retail distributor, wholesaler, manufacturer, warehouseman or common carrier, or an agent of any of these persons, who possesses an iodine matrix in the regular course of lawful business activities.

(5) The transfer or receipt of any betadine or povidone solution with an iodine content not exceeding ten percent in containers of eight ounces or less, or any tincture of iodine not exceeding two percent in containers of one ounce or less that is sold over the counter and is employed solely for its intended common household use.

(i) As used in this section, "iodine matrix" means iodine at a concentration greater than two percent, by weight, in a matrix or solution.

§60A-10-16. Expiration of enactments.

The provisions of this article establishing the Multi–State Real-Time Tracking System shall expire on June 30, 2023.