



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*House of Representatives*  
*State House, Boston 02133-1054*

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## **House Looks to Reduce Fentanyl Trafficking**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to unanimously pass a bill (H3755) that makes trafficking fentanyl, a powerful opioid, a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Fentanyl is a pain reliever similar to, but more potent than morphine. The medication can be purchased legally with a prescription but is also produced in illegal drug labs. In recent years, fentanyl has increasingly been found laced in heroin.

“I was pleased to vote today to strengthen our Commonwealth’s anti-drug laws,” said Representative Smola. “It is critical that legislators, law enforcement officials and medical providers work together to fight the opioid crisis in Massachusetts. This bill is a step in the right direction.”

H3755 allows prosecutors to charge people in possession of more than 10 grams of fentanyl with the more serious crime of trafficking. Illegal fentanyl use has been on the rise in Massachusetts. In 2013 Massachusetts State Police found 5 cases where heroin was laced with fentanyl. In 2014 there were 170 cases. This year, there have already been 473 cases.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 152-0 and now moves to the Senate.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov) or (617)722-2100.

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