KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY
Commonwealth Bill

Blue | CW 9

Referred to Committee:
House 4

Authors: Cailin Lindon, Kailey Dixon, Alexa Muha, Maci Woods

School: Hazard MS

City: Hazard

Action on the Bill

House	Senate
____ ☐ Passed	____ ☐ Passed
____ ☐ Defeated	____ ☐ Defeated

An act to provide enhanced penalties relating to distribution of street drugs (heroine, methamphetamine, cocaine).

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: This bill will allow law enforcement officials to charge dealers of the illegal street drugs; heroine, methamphetamine and cocaine with criminal homicide when a user of those drugs dies of drug overdose.

Section 2: Homicide is defined as the killing of a human being by another human being. Homicide may be classified as manslaughter (accidental) or murder (intentional). Street drugs refer to illegal substances taken for non-medical purpose. Street drugs such as heroine, methamphetamine and cocaine may not be prescribed by a doctor or purchased at a pharmacy. Instead these illegal drugs are created and sold by drug traffickers and dealers.

Section 3: If a coroner or medical examiner determines that a drug overdose is the cause of death of a person, he or she shall provide note of the death to the Department of Kentucky State Police. This notice shall include any information relating to the drug that resulted in the overdose. Law enforcement will investigate the overdose and if the dealer is determined to be a dealer of heroine, methamphetamine or cocaine; they shall be charged with a criminal homicide. Upon prosecution and conviction, dealers will be subject to punishments determined by existing Kentucky law related to criminal homicide.

Section 4: This bill will come at no additional cost to the state of Kentucky. Dealers will face longer prison sentences when convicted of criminal homicide. These harsher penalties will discourage the sale of illegal drugs by dealers. A decrease in active drug dealing will mean less illegal drugs on Kentucky streets, resulting in fewer drug related crimes.

Section 5: This bill will go into effect immediately upon passage.