

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 131

Representative Roemer

Cosponsors: Representatives Brinkman, Wiggam, Carruthers, Seitz, Plummer

A BILL

To amend sections 9.45, 2925.01, 4710.01, 4710.03, 1
4710.04, 4712.01, and 4712.99; to amend, for the 2
purpose of adopting new section numbers as 3
indicated in parentheses, sections 4710.01 4
(4712.50), 4710.02 (4712.51), 4710.03 (4712.52), 5
and 4710.04 (4712.53); to enact section 4712.54; 6
and to repeal section 4710.99 of the Revised 7
Code regarding debt adjusting. 8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 9.45, 2925.01, 4710.01, 4710.03, 9
4710.04, 4712.01, and 4712.99 be amended; sections 4710.01 10
(4712.50), 4710.02 (4712.51), 4710.03 (4712.52), and 4710.04 11
(4712.53) be amended for the purpose of adopting new section 12
numbers as indicated in parentheses; and section 4712.54 of the 13
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 14

Sec. 9.45. Notwithstanding section 1321.32 of the Revised 15
Code, the state and any of its political subdivisions or 16
instrumentalities may deduct from the wages or salaries of a 17
public employee, as defined in section 9.40 of the Revised Code, 18

such amounts as are authorized in writing by the employee to a 19
nonprofit debt pooling company operating pursuant to ~~Chapter~~ 20
~~4710.~~ sections 4712.50 to 4712.54 of the Revised Code, or a 21
nonprofit budget and debt counseling service, for payment or 22
compromise of any account, note, or other indebtedness. Such 23
authorization may be revoked at any time prior to final payment 24
by written notice from the employee to the employer. 25

Sec. 2925.01. As used in this chapter: 26

(A) "Administer," "controlled substance," "controlled 27
substance analog," "dispense," "distribute," "hypodermic," 28
"manufacturer," "official written order," "person," 29
"pharmacist," "pharmacy," "sale," "schedule I," "schedule II," 30
"schedule III," "schedule IV," "schedule V," and "wholesaler" 31
have the same meanings as in section 3719.01 of the Revised 32
Code. 33

(B) "Drug dependent person" and "drug of abuse" have the 34
same meanings as in section 3719.011 of the Revised Code. 35

(C) "Drug," "dangerous drug," "licensed health 36
professional authorized to prescribe drugs," and "prescription" 37
have the same meanings as in section 4729.01 of the Revised 38
Code. 39

(D) "Bulk amount" of a controlled substance means any of 40
the following: 41

(1) For any compound, mixture, preparation, or substance 42
included in schedule I, schedule II, or schedule III, with the 43
exception of any controlled substance analog, marihuana, 44
cocaine, L.S.D., heroin, any fentanyl-related compound, and 45
hashish and except as provided in division (D) (2), (5), or (6) 46
of this section, whichever of the following is applicable: 47

(a) An amount equal to or exceeding ten grams or twenty- 48
five unit doses of a compound, mixture, preparation, or 49
substance that is or contains any amount of a schedule I opiate 50
or opium derivative; 51

(b) An amount equal to or exceeding ten grams of a 52
compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains 53
any amount of raw or gum opium; 54

(c) An amount equal to or exceeding thirty grams or ten 55
unit doses of a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance 56
that is or contains any amount of a schedule I hallucinogen 57
other than tetrahydrocannabinol or lysergic acid amide, or a 58
schedule I stimulant or depressant; 59

(d) An amount equal to or exceeding twenty grams or five 60
times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified 61
in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, 62
mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains any 63
amount of a schedule II opiate or opium derivative; 64

(e) An amount equal to or exceeding five grams or ten unit 65
doses of a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is 66
or contains any amount of phencyclidine; 67

(f) An amount equal to or exceeding one hundred twenty 68
grams or thirty times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose 69
range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of 70
a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or 71
contains any amount of a schedule II stimulant that is in a 72
final dosage form manufactured by a person authorized by the 73
"Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act," 52 Stat. 1040 (1938), 21 74
U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, and the federal drug abuse control 75
laws, as defined in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code, that is 76

or contains any amount of a schedule II depressant substance or 77
a schedule II hallucinogenic substance; 78

(g) An amount equal to or exceeding three grams of a 79
compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains 80
any amount of a schedule II stimulant, or any of its salts or 81
isomers, that is not in a final dosage form manufactured by a 82
person authorized by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act 83
and the federal drug abuse control laws. 84

(2) An amount equal to or exceeding one hundred twenty 85
grams or thirty times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose 86
range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of 87
a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or 88
contains any amount of a schedule III or IV substance other than 89
an anabolic steroid or a schedule III opiate or opium 90
derivative; 91

(3) An amount equal to or exceeding twenty grams or five 92
times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified 93
in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, 94
mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains any 95
amount of a schedule III opiate or opium derivative; 96

(4) An amount equal to or exceeding two hundred fifty 97
milliliters or two hundred fifty grams of a compound, mixture, 98
preparation, or substance that is or contains any amount of a 99
schedule V substance; 100

(5) An amount equal to or exceeding two hundred solid 101
dosage units, sixteen grams, or sixteen milliliters of a 102
compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains 103
any amount of a schedule III anabolic steroid; 104

(6) For any compound, mixture, preparation, or substance 105

that is a combination of a fentanyl-related compound and any 106
other compound, mixture, preparation, or substance included in 107
schedule III, schedule IV, or schedule V, if the defendant is 108
charged with a violation of section 2925.11 of the Revised Code 109
and the sentencing provisions set forth in divisions (C) (10) (b) 110
and (C) (11) of that section will not apply regarding the 111
defendant and the violation, the bulk amount of the controlled 112
substance for purposes of the violation is the amount specified 113
in division (D) (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this section for 114
the other schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance that is 115
combined with the fentanyl-related compound. 116

(E) "Unit dose" means an amount or unit of a compound, 117
mixture, or preparation containing a controlled substance that 118
is separately identifiable and in a form that indicates that it 119
is the amount or unit by which the controlled substance is 120
separately administered to or taken by an individual. 121

(F) "Cultivate" includes planting, watering, fertilizing, 122
or tilling. 123

(G) "Drug abuse offense" means any of the following: 124

(1) A violation of division (A) of section 2913.02 that 125
constitutes theft of drugs, or a violation of section 2925.02, 126
2925.03, 2925.04, 2925.041, 2925.05, 2925.06, 2925.11, 2925.12, 127
2925.13, 2925.22, 2925.23, 2925.24, 2925.31, 2925.32, 2925.36, 128
or 2925.37 of the Revised Code; 129

(2) A violation of an existing or former law of this or 130
any other state or of the United States that is substantially 131
equivalent to any section listed in division (G) (1) of this 132
section; 133

(3) An offense under an existing or former law of this or 134

any other state, or of the United States, of which planting, 135
cultivating, harvesting, processing, making, manufacturing, 136
producing, shipping, transporting, delivering, acquiring, 137
possessing, storing, distributing, dispensing, selling, inducing 138
another to use, administering to another, using, or otherwise 139
dealing with a controlled substance is an element; 140

(4) A conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or 141
complicity in committing or attempting to commit any offense 142
under division (G) (1), (2), or (3) of this section. 143

(H) "Felony drug abuse offense" means any drug abuse 144
offense that would constitute a felony under the laws of this 145
state, any other state, or the United States. 146

(I) "Harmful intoxicant" does not include beer or 147
intoxicating liquor but means any of the following: 148

(1) Any compound, mixture, preparation, or substance the 149
gas, fumes, or vapor of which when inhaled can induce 150
intoxication, excitement, giddiness, irrational behavior, 151
depression, stupefaction, paralysis, unconsciousness, 152
asphyxiation, or other harmful physiological effects, and 153
includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: 154

(a) Any volatile organic solvent, plastic cement, model 155
cement, fingernail polish remover, lacquer thinner, cleaning 156
fluid, gasoline, or other preparation containing a volatile 157
organic solvent; 158

(b) Any aerosol propellant; 159

(c) Any fluorocarbon refrigerant; 160

(d) Any anesthetic gas. 161

(2) Gamma Butyrolactone; 162

(3) 1,4 Butanediol.	163
(J) "Manufacture" means to plant, cultivate, harvest,	164
process, make, prepare, or otherwise engage in any part of the	165
production of a drug, by propagation, extraction, chemical	166
synthesis, or compounding, or any combination of the same, and	167
includes packaging, repackaging, labeling, and other activities	168
incident to production.	169
(K) "Possess" or "possession" means having control over a	170
thing or substance, but may not be inferred solely from mere	171
access to the thing or substance through ownership or occupation	172
of the premises upon which the thing or substance is found.	173
(L) "Sample drug" means a drug or pharmaceutical	174
preparation that would be hazardous to health or safety if used	175
without the supervision of a licensed health professional	176
authorized to prescribe drugs, or a drug of abuse, and that, at	177
one time, had been placed in a container plainly marked as a	178
sample by a manufacturer.	179
(M) "Standard pharmaceutical reference manual" means the	180
current edition, with cumulative changes if any, of references	181
that are approved by the state board of pharmacy.	182
(N) "Juvenile" means a person under eighteen years of age.	183
(O) "Counterfeit controlled substance" means any of the	184
following:	185
(1) Any drug that bears, or whose container or label	186
bears, a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark used	187
without authorization of the owner of rights to that trademark,	188
trade name, or identifying mark;	189
(2) Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is	190

represented to be a controlled substance manufactured, 191
processed, packed, or distributed by a person other than the 192
person that manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed it; 193

(3) Any substance that is represented to be a controlled 194
substance but is not a controlled substance or is a different 195
controlled substance; 196

(4) Any substance other than a controlled substance that a 197
reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance 198
because of its similarity in shape, size, and color, or its 199
markings, labeling, packaging, distribution, or the price for 200
which it is sold or offered for sale. 201

(P) An offense is "committed in the vicinity of a school" 202
if the offender commits the offense on school premises, in a 203
school building, or within one thousand feet of the boundaries 204
of any school premises, regardless of whether the offender knows 205
the offense is being committed on school premises, in a school 206
building, or within one thousand feet of the boundaries of any 207
school premises. 208

(Q) "School" means any school operated by a board of 209
education, any community school established under Chapter 3314. 210
of the Revised Code, or any nonpublic school for which the state 211
board of education prescribes minimum standards under section 212
3301.07 of the Revised Code, whether or not any instruction, 213
extracurricular activities, or training provided by the school 214
is being conducted at the time a criminal offense is committed. 215

(R) "School premises" means either of the following: 216

(1) The parcel of real property on which any school is 217
situated, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular 218
activities, or training provided by the school is being 219

conducted on the premises at the time a criminal offense is 220
committed; 221

(2) Any other parcel of real property that is owned or 222
leased by a board of education of a school, the governing 223
authority of a community school established under Chapter 3314. 224
of the Revised Code, or the governing body of a nonpublic school 225
for which the state board of education prescribes minimum 226
standards under section 3301.07 of the Revised Code and on which 227
some of the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training 228
of the school is conducted, whether or not any instruction, 229
extracurricular activities, or training provided by the school 230
is being conducted on the parcel of real property at the time a 231
criminal offense is committed. 232

(S) "School building" means any building in which any of 233
the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training 234
provided by a school is conducted, whether or not any 235
instruction, extracurricular activities, or training provided by 236
the school is being conducted in the school building at the time 237
a criminal offense is committed. 238

(T) "Disciplinary counsel" means the disciplinary counsel 239
appointed by the board of commissioners on grievances and 240
discipline of the supreme court under the Rules for the 241
Government of the Bar of Ohio. 242

(U) "Certified grievance committee" means a duly 243
constituted and organized committee of the Ohio state bar 244
association or of one or more local bar associations of the 245
state of Ohio that complies with the criteria set forth in Rule 246
V, section 6 of the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio. 247

(V) "Professional license" means any license, permit, 248

certificate, registration, qualification, admission, temporary 249
license, temporary permit, temporary certificate, or temporary 250
registration that is described in divisions (W) (1) to (37) of 251
this section and that qualifies a person as a professionally 252
licensed person. 253

(W) "Professionally licensed person" means any of the 254
following: 255

(1) A person who has received a certificate or temporary 256
certificate as a certified public accountant or who has 257
registered as a public accountant under Chapter 4701. of the 258
Revised Code and who holds an Ohio permit issued under that 259
chapter; 260

(2) A person who holds a certificate of qualification to 261
practice architecture issued or renewed and registered under 262
Chapter 4703. of the Revised Code; 263

(3) A person who is registered as a landscape architect 264
under Chapter 4703. of the Revised Code or who holds a permit as 265
a landscape architect issued under that chapter; 266

(4) A person licensed under Chapter 4707. of the Revised 267
Code; 268

(5) A person who has been issued a certificate of 269
registration as a registered barber under Chapter 4709. of the 270
Revised Code; 271

(6) A person ~~licensed and regulated to engage in the~~ 272
~~business of a debt pooling company by a legislative authority,~~ 273
~~under authority of Chapter 4710. sections 4712.50 to 4712.54 of~~ 274
the Revised Code; 275

(7) A person who has been issued a cosmetologist's 276

license, hair designer's license, manicurist's license,	277
esthetician's license, natural hair stylist's license, advanced	278
cosmetologist's license, advanced hair designer's license,	279
advanced manicurist's license, advanced esthetician's license,	280
advanced natural hair stylist's license, cosmetology	281
instructor's license, hair design instructor's license,	282
manicurist instructor's license, esthetics instructor's license,	283
natural hair style instructor's license, independent	284
contractor's license, or tanning facility permit under Chapter	285
4713. of the Revised Code;	286
(8) A person who has been issued a license to practice	287
dentistry, a general anesthesia permit, a conscious sedation	288
permit, a limited resident's license, a limited teaching	289
license, a dental hygienist's license, or a dental hygienist's	290
teacher's certificate under Chapter 4715. of the Revised Code;	291
(9) A person who has been issued an embalmer's license, a	292
funeral director's license, a funeral home license, or a	293
crematory license, or who has been registered for an embalmer's	294
or funeral director's apprenticeship under Chapter 4717. of the	295
Revised Code;	296
(10) A person who has been licensed as a registered nurse	297
or practical nurse, or who has been issued a certificate for the	298
practice of nurse-midwifery under Chapter 4723. of the Revised	299
Code;	300
(11) A person who has been licensed to practice optometry	301
or to engage in optical dispensing under Chapter 4725. of the	302
Revised Code;	303
(12) A person licensed to act as a pawnbroker under	304
Chapter 4727. of the Revised Code;	305

(13) A person licensed to act as a precious metals dealer	306
under Chapter 4728. of the Revised Code;	307
(14) A person licensed under Chapter 4729. of the Revised	308
Code as a pharmacist or pharmacy intern or registered under that	309
chapter as a registered pharmacy technician, certified pharmacy	310
technician, or pharmacy technician trainee;	311
(15) A person licensed under Chapter 4729. of the Revised	312
Code as a manufacturer of dangerous drugs, outsourcing facility,	313
third-party logistics provider, repackager of dangerous drugs,	314
wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs, or terminal	315
distributor of dangerous drugs;	316
(16) A person who is authorized to practice as a physician	317
assistant under Chapter 4730. of the Revised Code;	318
(17) A person who has been issued a license to practice	319
medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or	320
podiatric medicine and surgery under Chapter 4731. of the	321
Revised Code or has been issued a certificate to practice a	322
limited branch of medicine under that chapter;	323
(18) A person licensed as a psychologist or school	324
psychologist under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;	325
(19) A person registered to practice the profession of	326
engineering or surveying under Chapter 4733. of the Revised	327
Code;	328
(20) A person who has been issued a license to practice	329
chiropractic under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code;	330
(21) A person licensed to act as a real estate broker or	331
real estate salesperson under Chapter 4735. of the Revised Code;	332
(22) A person registered as a registered sanitarian under	333

Chapter 4736. of the Revised Code;	334
(23) A person licensed to operate or maintain a junkyard	335
under Chapter 4737. of the Revised Code;	336
(24) A person who has been issued a motor vehicle salvage	337
dealer's license under Chapter 4738. of the Revised Code;	338
(25) A person who has been licensed to act as a steam	339
engineer under Chapter 4739. of the Revised Code;	340
(26) A person who has been issued a license or temporary	341
permit to practice veterinary medicine or any of its branches,	342
or who is registered as a graduate animal technician under	343
Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code;	344
(27) A person who has been issued a hearing aid dealer's	345
or fitter's license or trainee permit under Chapter 4747. of the	346
Revised Code;	347
(28) A person who has been issued a class A, class B, or	348
class C license or who has been registered as an investigator or	349
security guard employee under Chapter 4749. of the Revised Code;	350
(29) A person licensed and registered to practice as a	351
nursing home administrator under Chapter 4751. of the Revised	352
Code;	353
(30) A person licensed to practice as a speech-language	354
pathologist or audiologist under Chapter 4753. of the Revised	355
Code;	356
(31) A person issued a license as an occupational	357
therapist or physical therapist under Chapter 4755. of the	358
Revised Code;	359
(32) A person who is licensed as a licensed professional	360

clinical counselor, licensed professional counselor, social 361
worker, independent social worker, independent marriage and 362
family therapist, or marriage and family therapist, or 363
registered as a social work assistant under Chapter 4757. of the 364
Revised Code; 365

(33) A person issued a license to practice dietetics under 366
Chapter 4759. of the Revised Code; 367

(34) A person who has been issued a license or limited 368
permit to practice respiratory therapy under Chapter 4761. of 369
the Revised Code; 370

(35) A person who has been issued a real estate appraiser 371
certificate under Chapter 4763. of the Revised Code; 372

(36) A person who has been issued a home inspector license 373
under Chapter 4764. of the Revised Code; 374

(37) A person who has been admitted to the bar by order of 375
the supreme court in compliance with its prescribed and 376
published rules. 377

(X) "Cocaine" means any of the following: 378

(1) A cocaine salt, isomer, or derivative, a salt of a 379
cocaine isomer or derivative, or the base form of cocaine; 380

(2) Coca leaves or a salt, compound, derivative, or 381
preparation of coca leaves, including ecgonine, a salt, isomer, 382
or derivative of ecgonine, or a salt of an isomer or derivative 383
of ecgonine; 384

(3) A salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of a 385
substance identified in division (X)(1) or (2) of this section 386
that is chemically equivalent to or identical with any of those 387
substances, except that the substances shall not include 388

decocainized coca leaves or extraction of coca leaves if the 389
extractions do not contain cocaine or ecgonine. 390

(Y) "L.S.D." means lysergic acid diethylamide. 391

(Z) "Hashish" means the resin or a preparation of the 392
resin contained in marihuana, whether in solid form or in a 393
liquid concentrate, liquid extract, or liquid distillate form. 394

(AA) "Marihuana" has the same meaning as in section 395
3719.01 of the Revised Code, except that it does not include 396
hashish. 397

(BB) An offense is "committed in the vicinity of a 398
juvenile" if the offender commits the offense within one hundred 399
feet of a juvenile or within the view of a juvenile, regardless 400
of whether the offender knows the age of the juvenile, whether 401
the offender knows the offense is being committed within one 402
hundred feet of or within view of the juvenile, or whether the 403
juvenile actually views the commission of the offense. 404

(CC) "Presumption for a prison term" or "presumption that 405
a prison term shall be imposed" means a presumption, as 406
described in division (D) of section 2929.13 of the Revised 407
Code, that a prison term is a necessary sanction for a felony in 408
order to comply with the purposes and principles of sentencing 409
under section 2929.11 of the Revised Code. 410

(DD) "Major drug offender" has the same meaning as in 411
section 2929.01 of the Revised Code. 412

(EE) "Minor drug possession offense" means either of the 413
following: 414

(1) A violation of section 2925.11 of the Revised Code as 415
it existed prior to July 1, 1996; 416

(2) A violation of section 2925.11 of the Revised Code as 417
it exists on and after July 1, 1996, that is a misdemeanor or a 418
felony of the fifth degree. 419

(FF) "Mandatory prison term" has the same meaning as in 420
section 2929.01 of the Revised Code. 421

(GG) "Adulterate" means to cause a drug to be adulterated 422
as described in section 3715.63 of the Revised Code. 423

(HH) "Public premises" means any hotel, restaurant, 424
tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public 425
accommodation, business, amusement, or resort. 426

(II) "Methamphetamine" means methamphetamine, any salt, 427
isomer, or salt of an isomer of methamphetamine, or any 428
compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing 429
methamphetamine or any salt, isomer, or salt of an isomer of 430
methamphetamine. 431

(JJ) "Deception" has the same meaning as in section 432
2913.01 of the Revised Code. 433

(KK) "Fentanyl-related compound" means any of the 434
following: 435

(1) Fentanyl; 436

(2) Alpha-methylfentanyl (N-[1-(alpha-methyl-beta- 437
phenyl)ethyl-4-piperidyl] propionanilide; 1-(1-methyl-2- 438
phenylethyl)-4-(N-propanilido) piperidine); 439

(3) Alpha-methylthiofentanyl (N-[1-methyl-2-(2- 440
thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide); 441

(4) Beta-hydroxyfentanyl (N-[1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenethyl-4- 442
piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide); 443

- (5) Beta-hydroxy-3-methylfentanyl (other name: N-[1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenethyl)-3-methyl-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide); 444
445
446
- (6) 3-methylfentanyl (N-[3-methyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-N- phenylpropanamide); 447
448
- (7) 3-methylthiofentanyl (N-[3-methyl-1-[2-(thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide); 449
450
- (8) Para-fluorofentanyl (N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenethyl)-4-piperidinyl]propanamide; 451
452
- (9) Thiofentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide; 453
454
- (10) Alfentanil; 455
- (11) Carfentanil; 456
- (12) Remifentanil; 457
- (13) Sufentanil; 458
- (14) Acetyl-alpha-methylfentanyl (N-[1-(1-methyl-2-phenethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide); and 459
460
- (15) Any compound that meets all of the following fentanyl 461
pharmacophore requirements to bind at the mu receptor, as 462
identified by a report from an established forensic laboratory, 463
including acetylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, valerylfentanyl, 464
butyrylfentanyl, isobutyrylfentanyl, 4-methoxybutyrylfentanyl, 465
para-fluorobutyrylfentanyl, acrylfentanyl, and ortho- 466
fluorofentanyl: 467
- (a) A chemical scaffold consisting of both of the 468
following: 469
- (i) A five, six, or seven member ring structure containing 470

a nitrogen, whether or not further substituted; 471

(ii) An attached nitrogen to the ring, whether or not that 472
nitrogen is enclosed in a ring structure, including an attached 473
aromatic ring or other lipophilic group to that nitrogen. 474

(b) A polar functional group attached to the chemical 475
scaffold, including but not limited to a hydroxyl, ketone, 476
amide, or ester; 477

(c) An alkyl or aryl substitution off the ring nitrogen of 478
the chemical scaffold; and 479

(d) The compound has not been approved for medical use by 480
the United States food and drug administration. 481

(LL) "First degree felony mandatory prison term" means one 482
of the definite prison terms prescribed in division (A) (1) (b) of 483
section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of the first 484
degree, except that if the violation for which sentence is being 485
imposed is committed on or after the effective date of this 486
amendment, it means one of the minimum prison terms prescribed 487
in division (A) (1) (a) of that section for a felony of the first 488
degree. 489

(MM) "Second degree felony mandatory prison term" means 490
one of the definite prison terms prescribed in division (A) (2) 491
(b) of section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of the 492
second degree, except that if the violation for which sentence 493
is being imposed is committed on or after the effective date of 494
this amendment, it means one of the minimum prison terms 495
prescribed in division (A) (2) (a) of that section for a felony of 496
the second degree. 497

(NN) "Maximum first degree felony mandatory prison term" 498
means the maximum definite prison term prescribed in division 499

(A) (1) (b) of section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of 500
the first degree, except that if the violation for which 501
sentence is being imposed is committed on or after the effective 502
date of this amendment, it means the longest minimum prison term 503
prescribed in division (A) (1) (a) of that section for a felony of 504
the first degree. 505

(OO) "Maximum second degree felony mandatory prison term" 506
means the maximum definite prison term prescribed in division 507
(A) (2) (b) of section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of 508
the second degree, except that if the violation for which 509
sentence is being imposed is committed on or after the effective 510
date of this amendment, it means the longest minimum prison term 511
prescribed in division (A) (2) (a) of that section for a felony of 512
the second degree. 513

Sec. 4712.01. As used in sections 4712.01 to 4712.14 of 514
the Revised Code: 515

(A) "Buyer" means an individual who is solicited to 516
purchase or who purchases the services of a credit services 517
organization for purposes other than obtaining a business loan 518
as described in division (B) (6) of section 1343.01 of the 519
Revised Code. 520

(B) "Consumer reporting agency" has the same meaning as in 521
the "Fair Credit Reporting Act," 84 Stat. 1128, 15 U.S.C.A. 522
1681a, as amended. 523

(C) (1) "Credit services organization" means any person 524
that, in return for the payment of money or other valuable 525
consideration readily convertible into money for the following 526
services, sells, provides, or performs, or represents that the 527
person can or will sell, provide, or perform, one or more of the 528

following services: 529

(a) Improving a buyer's credit record, history, or rating; 530

(b) Obtaining an extension of credit by others for a 531
buyer; 532

(c) Providing advice or assistance to a buyer in 533
connection with division (C) (1) (a) or (b) of this section; 534

(d) Removing adverse credit information that is accurate 535
and not obsolete from the buyer's credit record, history, or 536
rating; 537

(e) Altering the buyer's identification to prevent the 538
display of the buyer's credit record, history, or rating. 539

(2) "Credit services organization" does not include any of 540
the following: 541

(a) A person that makes or collects loans, to the extent 542
these activities are subject to licensure or registration by 543
this state; 544

(b) A mortgage broker, as defined in section 1322.01 of 545
the Revised Code, that holds a valid certificate of registration 546
under Chapter 1322. of the Revised Code; 547

(c) A lender approved by the United States secretary of 548
housing and urban development for participation in a mortgage 549
insurance program under the "National Housing Act," 48 Stat. 550
1246 (1934), 12 U.S.C.A. 1701, as amended; 551

(d) A bank, savings bank, or savings and loan association, 552
or a subsidiary or an affiliate of a bank, savings bank, or 553
savings and loan association. For purposes of division (C) (2) (d) 554
of this section, "affiliate" has the same meaning as in division 555

(A) of section 1101.01 of the Revised Code and "bank," as used 556
in division (A) of section 1101.01 of the Revised Code, is 557
deemed to include a savings bank or savings and loan 558
association. 559

(e) A credit union organized and qualified under Chapter 560
1733. of the Revised Code or the "Federal Credit Union Act," 84 561
Stat. 994 (1970), 12 U.S.C.A. 1751, as amended; 562

(f) A budget and debt counseling service, as defined in 563
division (D) of section 2716.03 of the Revised Code, provided 564
that the service is a nonprofit organization exempt from 565
taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code 566
of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 501, as amended, and that 567
the service is in compliance with ~~Chapter 4710. sections 4712.50~~ 568
to 4712.54 of the Revised Code; 569

(g) A consumer reporting agency that is in substantial 570
compliance with the "Fair Credit Reporting Act," 84 Stat. 1128, 571
15 U.S.C.A. 1681a, as amended. 572

(h) A mortgage banker; 573

(i) Any political subdivision, or any governmental or 574
other public entity, corporation, or agency, in or of the United 575
States or any state of the United States; 576

(j) A college or university, or controlled entity of a 577
college or university, as defined in section 1713.05 of the 578
Revised Code; 579

(k) A motor vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to Chapter 580
4517. of the Revised Code acting within the scope and authority 581
of that license or a motor vehicle auction owner licensed 582
pursuant to Chapters 4517. and 4707. of the Revised Code acting 583
within the scope and authority of that license; 584

(1) An attorney at law admitted to the practice of law in 585
this state who offers, provides, or performs a legal service 586
that is privileged by reason of the attorney-client 587
relationship, provided that the service is not a service 588
described in division (C) (1) (b) or (e) of this section. 589

(D) "Extension of credit" means the right to defer payment 590
of debt, or to incur debt and defer its payment, offered or 591
granted primarily for personal, family, or household purposes. 592
"Extension of credit" does not include a mortgage. 593

(E) "Mortgage" means any indebtedness secured by a deed of 594
trust, security deed, or other lien on real property. 595

(F) "Mortgage banker" means any person that makes, 596
services, or buys and sells mortgage loans and is approved by 597
the United States department of housing and urban development, 598
the United States department of veterans affairs, the federal 599
national mortgage association, or the federal home loan mortgage 600
corporation. 601

(G) "Superintendent of financial institutions" includes 602
the deputy superintendent for consumer finance as provided in 603
section 1181.21 of the Revised Code. 604

Sec. ~~4710.01-4712.50~~. As used in ~~this chapter~~ sections 605
4712.50 to 4712.54 of the Revised Code: 606

(A) "Person" includes individuals, partnerships, 607
associations, corporations, trusts, and other legal entities. 608

(B) (1) "Debt adjusting" means doing business in debt 609
adjusting, budget counseling, debt management, or debt pooling 610
service, or holding oneself out, by words of similar import, as 611
providing services to debtors in the management, reduction, or 612
elimination of the amount or repayment terms of their debts, to 613

do either of the following: 614

~~(1)~~ (a) To effect the adjustment, compromise, or discharge 615
of any account, note, or other indebtedness of the debtor ~~to~~ to 616
obtain any of the following: 617

(i) An adjustment of an interest rate on a debt owed by a 618
debtor to a creditor; 619

(ii) A waiver or reduction of fees or charges; 620

(iii) A discharge of a debt by reducing the principal 621
balance of the debt. 622

~~(2)~~ (b) To receive from the debtor and disburse to the 623
debtor's creditors any money or other thing of value. 624

(2) "Debt adjusting" does not include any of the 625
activities of a debt collector, as defined in 15 U.S.C. 1692a. 626

(C) "Resides" means to live in a particular place on a 627
temporary or a permanent basis. 628

Sec. ~~4710.02~~ 4712.51. (A) Subject to division (C) of this 629
section, a person engaged in debt adjusting shall do all of the 630
following: 631

(1) Unless specifically instructed otherwise by a debtor, 632
disburse to the appropriate creditors all funds received from 633
the debtor, less any contributions not prohibited by division 634
(B) of this section, within thirty days of receipt of the funds 635
from the debtor; 636

(2) Maintain a separate trust account for the receipt of 637
any funds from debtors and the disbursement of the funds to 638
creditors on behalf of the debtors; 639

(3) Charge or accept only reasonable fees or contributions 640

in accordance with division (B) of this section; 641

(4) Establish and implement a policy that allows for the 642
waiver or discontinuation of fees or contributions not 643
prohibited by division (B) of this section if the debtor is 644
unable to pay such fees or contributions. 645

(B) If fees or contributions for providing debt adjusting 646
services are charged or accepted, directly or indirectly, no 647
person providing or engaged in debt adjusting shall do any of 648
the following: 649

(1) Charge or accept a fee or contribution exceeding 650
seventy-five dollars from a debtor residing in this state for an 651
initial consultation or initial set up of a debt management plan 652
or similar plan; 653

(2) Charge or accept consultation fees or contributions 654
exceeding one hundred dollars per calendar year from a debtor 655
residing in this state; 656

(3) Charge or accept a periodic fee or contribution from a 657
debtor residing in this state for administering a debt 658
management plan or similar plan, which fee or contribution 659
exceeds eight and one-half per cent of the amount paid by the 660
debtor each month for distribution to the debtor's creditors or 661
thirty dollars, whichever is greater. 662

(C) Division (A) or (B) of this section does not prohibit 663
a person engaged in debt adjusting for a debtor who is residing 664
in this state from charging the debtor a reasonable fee for 665
insufficient funds transactions that is in addition to fees or 666
contributions not prohibited by division (B) of this section. 667

(D) Any person that engages in debt adjusting, annually, 668
shall arrange for and undergo an audit conducted by an 669

independent, third party, certified public accountant of the 670
person's business, including any trust funds deposited and 671
distributed to creditors on behalf of debtors. Both of the 672
following apply to an audit described in this division: 673

(1) The person shall file the results of the audit and the 674
auditor's opinion with the consumer protection division of the 675
attorney general. 676

(2) The attorney general shall make available a summary of 677
the results of the audit and the auditor's opinion upon written 678
request of a person and payment of a fee not exceeding the cost 679
of copying the summary and opinion. 680

(E) A person engaged in debt adjusting shall obtain and 681
maintain at all times insurance coverage for employee 682
dishonesty, depositor's forgery, and computer fraud in the 683
amount of ten per cent of the monthly average for the immediate 684
preceding six months of the aggregate amount of all deposits 685
made with the person by all debtors. The insurance coverage 686
shall comply with all of the following: 687

(1) The insurance coverage is not less than one hundred 688
thousand dollars. 689

(2) The insurance coverage includes a deductible that does 690
not exceed ten per cent of the face amount of the policy 691
coverage. 692

(3) The insurance coverage is issued by an insurer rated 693
at least A- or its equivalent by a nationally recognized rating 694
organization. 695

(4) The insurance coverage provides that thirty days 696
advance written notice be given to the consumer protection 697
division of the attorney general before coverage is terminated. 698

(F) (1) No person engaged in debt adjusting shall fail to 699
comply with division (A) of this section or shall violate 700
division (B) of this section. 701

(2) No person engaged in debt adjusting shall fail to 702
comply with divisions (D) and (E) of this section. 703

Sec. ~~4710.03~~ 4712.52. Nothing in ~~this chapter sections~~ 704
4712.50 to 4712.54 of the Revised Code applies to any of the 705
following: 706

(A) The federal national mortgage association; the federal 707
home loan mortgage corporation; a bank, bank holding company, 708
trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, 709
savings bank, or credit card bank, that is regulated by the 710
office of the comptroller of currency, office of thrift 711
supervision, federal reserve, federal deposit insurance 712
corporation, national credit union administration, or division 713
of financial institutions; or to subsidiaries of any of these 714
entities; 715

(B) Debt adjusting incurred in the practice of law in this 716
state; 717

(C) A person that incidentally engages in debt adjusting 718
to adjust the indebtedness owed to that person; 719

(D) A registrant as defined in section 1321.51 of the 720
Revised Code; 721

(E) A registrant or licensee as both are defined in 722
section 1322.01 of the Revised Code. 723

Sec. ~~4710.04~~ 4712.53. (A) Any violation of division (F) (1) 724
of section ~~4710.02~~ 4712.51 of the Revised Code is deemed an 725
unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of section 726

1345.02 of the Revised Code. A person injured by a violation of 727
that division has a cause of action and is entitled to the same 728
relief available to a consumer under section 1345.09 of the 729
Revised Code, and all the powers and remedies available to the 730
attorney general to enforce sections 1345.01 to 1345.13 of the 731
Revised Code are available to the attorney general to enforce 732
division (F) (1) of section ~~4710.02~~ 4712.51 of the Revised Code. 733

(B) Any person who violates division (F) (2) of section 734
~~4710.02~~ 4712.51 of the Revised Code, in addition to the 735
penalties imposed by division (C) of section ~~4710.99~~ 4712.99 of 736
the Revised Code, shall be fined not more than ten thousand 737
dollars for each violation. 738

Sec. 4712.54. (A) A person engaged in debt adjusting and 739
operating in compliance with federal laws or regulations, 740
including regulations adopted under 16 C.F.R. part 310, is not 741
subject to division (B) of section 4712.51 of the Revised Code 742
or to any requirement under sections 4712.50 to 4712.54 of the 743
Revised Code that conflicts with those federal laws or 744
regulations. 745

(B) A person engaged in debt adjusting and operating in 746
compliance with federal laws or regulations, including 747
regulations adopted under 16 C.F.R. part 310, shall, in any debt 748
management plan between the person and a debtor, disclose to the 749
debtor each creditor that the person has reason to believe will 750
not negotiate settlements directly with the person. 751

Sec. 4712.99. (A) Whoever violates division (J) of section 752
4712.02, division (E) of section 4712.04, division (D) or (E) of 753
section 4712.05, division (A) of section 4712.06, section 754
4712.07 or 4712.08, or division (A) of section 4712.09 of the 755
Revised Code is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree. 756

(B) (1) Whoever violates section 4712.071 of the Revised 757
Code is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not 758
less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars. 759

(2) The offense established under section 4712.071 of the 760
Revised Code is a strict liability offense and section 2901.20 761
of the Revised Code does not apply. The designation of this 762
offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to 763
imply that any other offense for which there is no specified 764
degree of culpability, whether in this section or another 765
section of the Revised Code, is not a strict liability offense. 766

(C) Whoever recklessly violates division (F) of section 767
4712.51 of the Revised Code or division (B) of section 4712.54 768
of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third 769
degree for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the second 770
degree for any subsequent offense. 771

Section 2. That existing sections 9.45, 2925.01, 4710.01, 772
4710.02, 4710.03, 4710.04, 4712.01, and 4712.99 of the Revised 773
Code are hereby repealed. 774

Section 3. That section 4710.99 of the Revised Code is 775
hereby repealed. 776

Section 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed as 777
permitting the unauthorized practice of law by any person 778
engaged in debt adjusting. 779

Section 5. Section 2925.01 of the Revised Code is 780
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 781
by Am. Sub. H.B. 49, Am. Sub. S.B. 1, Am. Sub. S.B. 201, Sub. 782
S.B. 229, Am. Sub. S.B. 255, and Sub. S.B. 259, all of the 132nd 783
General Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle 784
stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that 785

amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of	786
simultaneous operation, finds that the composite is the	787
resulting version of the section in effect prior to the	788
effective date of the section as presented in this act.	789