

HB 1115 -- KRATOM PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Christofanelli

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill establishes the "Kratom Consumer Protection Act," which requires dealers who prepare, distribute, sell, or expose for sale a food that is represented to be a kratom product to disclose on the product label the basis on which this representation is made. A dealer is prohibited from preparing, distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a kratom product that does not conform to these labeling requirements.

A dealer may not prepare, distribute, sell or expose for sale a kratom product that is adulterated or contaminated with a dangerous non-kratom substance, contains a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine in the alkaloid fraction that is greater than 2% composition of the product, containing any synthetic alkaloids, or does not include on its package or label the amount of mitragynine, 7-hydroxymitragynine, or other synthetically derived compounds of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*.

A dealer may not distribute, sell or expose for sale a kratom product to anyone under 18 years of age. The bill specifies penalties for a violation of the labeling requirements and allows for a person who is aggrieved by a violation of the labeling requirements to bring a cause of action for damages resulting from the violation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Kratom should be regulated in the same manner as other natural supplements in order to benefit the public health and to ensure that its many benefits remain available to all adults. Kratom is used to treat many different types of illnesses and is especially effective at relief of pain without causing debilitating side effects. Many Kratom users report being able to reduce or eliminate reliance on opiate drugs for pain relief.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Christofanelli; Eapen Thampy; Hemp Haven; Proteam Brady; Tyler F. Renn; David Herman, American Kratom Association; Dr. Charles Cookson; David Palatnik, CBD Kratom; Lance Coursey; Ethen Jones; David C. Jordan; Tammy Bieganski; Matthew Barton; Kara A. Borisen; Linda Beshar; Sarah Jones; and Kirk Hullingert.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.