

SENATE BILL NO. 359—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

MARCH 25, 2021

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Provides that certain prohibited acts are also punishable as arson under certain circumstances. (BDR 40-1006)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to crimes; providing that certain prohibited acts are also punishable as arson under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law establishes the crime of arson, which is divided into arson of the first, second, third and fourth degree and which is punishable based upon the degree of arson. (NRS 205.005-205.055) Existing law also: (1) prohibits the unauthorized manufacturing or compounding of a controlled substance other than marijuana; and (2) provides that a person who engages in such unauthorized manufacturing or compounding of a controlled substance other than marijuana is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 3 years and a maximum term of not more than 15 years, and may be further punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000. (NRS 453.322) **Section 1** of this bill provides that in addition to any punishment that may be imposed for unauthorized manufacturing or compounding of a controlled substance other than marijuana, if a fire or explosion occurs as the result of such manufacturing or compounding of a controlled substance other than marijuana, the person is also guilty of arson.

Existing law prohibits: (1) the unauthorized manufacturing, growing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, propagating or processing of marijuana, which is punishable as a category E felony; and (2) the unauthorized extraction of cannabis, which is punishable as a category C felony. (NRS 453.3393) **Section 2** of this bill provides that in addition to any other punishment that may be imposed for violating such prohibitions, if a fire or explosion occurs as the result of the violation, the person is also guilty of arson.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** NRS 453.322 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2       453.322 1. Except as authorized by the provisions of NRS  
3       453.011 to 453.552, inclusive, it is unlawful for a person to  
4       knowingly or intentionally:

5       (a) Manufacture or compound a controlled substance other than  
6       marijuana.

7       (b) Possess, with the intent to manufacture or compound a  
8       controlled substance other than marijuana, or sell, exchange, barter,  
9       supply, prescribe, dispense or give away, with the intent that the  
10      chemical be used to manufacture or compound a controlled  
11      substance other than marijuana:

12      (1) Any chemical identified in subsection ~~[4:]~~ 5; or

13      (2) Any other chemical which is proven by expert testimony  
14      to be commonly used in manufacturing or compounding a controlled  
15      substance other than marijuana. The district attorney may present  
16      expert testimony to provide a prima facie case that any chemical,  
17      whether or not it is a chemical identified in subsection ~~[4:]~~ 5, is  
18      commonly used in manufacturing or compounding such a controlled  
19      substance.

20      ↪ The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to a person who,  
21      without the intent to commit an unlawful act, possesses any  
22      chemical at a laboratory that is licensed to store the chemical.

23      (c) Offer or attempt to do any act set forth in paragraph (a) or  
24      (b).

25      2. Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 453.3385, a  
26      person who violates any provision of subsection 1 is guilty of a  
27      category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
28      state prison for a minimum term of not less than 3 years and a  
29      maximum term of not more than 15 years, and may be further  
30      punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000.

31      3. *In addition to any other punishment that may be imposed*  
32      *pursuant to this section, if a person violates any provision of*  
33      *subsection 1 by engaging in the manufacturing or compounding*  
34      *of a controlled substance other than marijuana, or by attempting*  
35      *to do so, and a fire or explosion occurs as the result of such*  
36      *manufacturing or compounding of a controlled substance other*  
37      *than marijuana, or an attempt to do so, the person is guilty of*  
38      *arson and shall be punished as provided in NRS 205.005 to*  
39      *205.055, inclusive, depending on the degree of arson.*

40      4. The court shall not grant probation to a person convicted  
41      pursuant to this section.



**[4:] 5.** The following chemicals are identified for the purposes of subsection 1:

- (a) Acetic anhydride.
- (b) Acetone.
- (c) N-Acetylanthranilic acid, its esters and its salts.
- (d) Anthranilic acid, its esters and its salts.
- (e) Benzaldehyde, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (f) Benzyl chloride.
- (g) Benzyl cyanide.
- (h) 1,4-Butanediol.
- (i) 2-Butanone (or methyl ethyl ketone or MEK).
- (j) Ephedrine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (k) Ergonovine and its salts.
- (l) Ergotamine and its salts.
- (m) Ethylamine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (n) Ethyl ether.
- (o) Gamma butyrolactone.
- (p) Hydriodic acid, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (q) Hydrochloric gas.
- (r) Iodine.
- (s) Isosafrole, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (t) Lithium metal.
- (u) Methylamine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (v) 3,4-Methylenedioxy-phenyl-2-propanone.
- (w) N-Methylephedrine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (x) Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK).
- (y) N-Methylpseudoephedrine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (z) Nitroethane, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (aa) Norpseudoephedrine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (bb) Phenylacetic acid, its esters and its salts.
- (cc) Phenylpropanolamine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (dd) Piperidine and its salts.
- (ee) Piperonal, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (ff) Potassium permanganate.
- (gg) Propionic anhydride, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (hh) Pseudoephedrine, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (ii) Red phosphorous.
- (jj) Safrole, its salts, isomers and salts of isomers.
- (kk) Sodium metal.
- (ll) Sulfuric acid.
- (mm) Toluene.



**Sec. 2.** NRS 453.3393 is hereby amended to read as follows:

453.3393 1. A person shall not knowingly or intentionally manufacture, grow, plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, propagate or process marijuana, except as specifically authorized by the provisions of this chapter or title 56 of NRS.

2. Unless a greater penalty is provided in subsection 3 or NRS 453.339, a person who violates subsection 1, if the quantity involved is more than 12 marijuana plants, irrespective of whether the marijuana plants are mature or immature, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

3. A person shall not knowingly or intentionally extract concentrated cannabis, except as specifically authorized by the provisions of title 56 of NRS. Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 453.339, a person who violates this subsection is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

4. *In addition to any other punishment that may be imposed pursuant to this section, if a person:*

*(a) Manufactures, grows, plants, cultivates, harvests, dries, propagates or processes marijuana in violation of subsection 1; or*

*(b) Extracts concentrated cannabis in violation of subsection 3,*

*↪ and a fire or explosion occurs as the result of the violation, the person is guilty of arson and shall be punished as provided in NRS 205.005 to 205.055, inclusive, depending on the degree of arson.*

5. In addition to any punishment imposed pursuant to this section, the court shall order a person convicted of a violation of this section to pay all costs associated with any necessary cleanup and disposal related to the manufacturing, growing, planting, cultivation, harvesting, drying, propagation or processing of the marijuana or the extraction of concentrated cannabis.

