H. B. 2486 1 2 3 (By Delegates Sobonya, Rowan and C. Miller) [Introduced January 14, 2011; referred to the 4 5 Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.] 6 7 8 9 10 A BILL to amend and reenact §60A-4-401 of the Code of West 11 Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Uniform Controlled 12 Substances Act; creating the felony offense of unlawful 13 possession of cocaine; and providing criminal penalties upon 14 conviction. 15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: That \$60A-4-401 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, 16 17 amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows: 18 ARTICLE 4. OFFENSES AND PENALTIES. 19 §60A-4-401. Prohibited acts A; penalties. 20 (a) Except as authorized by this act, it is unlawful for any 21 person to manufacture, deliver or possess with intent to 22 manufacture or deliver, a controlled substance. Any person who violates this subsection with respect to: 23

- 1 (i) A controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II,
- 2 which is a narcotic drug, is guilty of a felony and, upon
- 3 conviction, may be imprisoned in the a state correctional facility
- 4 for not less than one year nor more than fifteen years, or fined
- 5 not more than \$25,000, or both fined and imprisoned;
- 6 (ii) Any other controlled substance classified in Schedule I,
- 7 II or III is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, may be
- 8 imprisoned in the a state correctional facility for not less than
- 9 one year nor more than five years, or fined not more than \$15,000,
- 10 or both fined and imprisoned;
- 11 (iii) A substance classified in Schedule IV is guilty of a
- 12 felony and, upon conviction, may be imprisoned in the a state
- 13 correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than
- 14 three years, or fined not more than \$10,000, or both fined and
- 15 imprisoned;
- 16 (iv) A substance classified in Schedule V is guilty of a
- 17 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be confined in jail for not
- 18 less than six months nor more than one year, or fined not more than
- 19 \$5,000, or both fined and confined. Provided, That In addition,
- 20 for offenses relating to any substance classified as Schedule V in
- 21 article ten of this chapter, the penalties established in said
- 22 article apply.
- 23 (b) Except as authorized by this act, it is unlawful for any
- 24 person to create, deliver or possess with intent to deliver, a

- 1 counterfeit substance.
- 2 Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:
- 3 (i) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I or II,
- 4 which is a narcotic drug, is guilty of a felony and, upon
- 5 conviction, may be imprisoned in the a state correctional facility
- 6 for not less than one year nor more than fifteen years, or fined
- 7 not more than \$25,000, or both fined and imprisoned;
- 8 (ii) Any other counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I,
- 9 II or III is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, may be
- 10 imprisoned in $\frac{1}{2}$ state correctional facility for not less than
- 11 one year nor more than five years, or fined not more than \$15,000,
- 12 or both fined and imprisoned;
- 13 (iii) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule IV is
- 14 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, may be imprisoned in the
- 15 a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more
- 16 than three years, or fined not more than \$10,000, or both fined and
- 17 imprisoned;
- 18 (iv) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule V is
- 19 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be confined in
- 20 jail for not less than six months nor more than one year, or fined
- 21 not more than \$5,000, or both fined and confined. Provided, That
- 22 In addition, for offenses relating to any substance classified as
- 23 Schedule V in article ten of this chapter, the penalties
- 24 established in said article apply.

- (c) It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally 1 2 to possess a controlled substance unless the substance was obtained 3 directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a 4 practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional 5 practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this act. 6 person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, 7 disposition may be made under section four hundred seven of this 8 article, subject to the limitations specified in said section, or 9 upon conviction, such person may be confined in jail not less than 10 ninety days nor more than six months, or fined not more than 11 \$1,000, or both fined and confined. Provided, That However, 12 notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, 13 any first offense for possession of less than fifteen grams of 14 marijuana shall be disposed of under said section. Any person who 15 violates this subsection for possession of one gram or more of 16 cocaine is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, may be 17 imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one 18 year nor more than three years, or fined not more than \$10,000, or 19 both fined and imprisoned.
- 20 (d) It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally:
- 21 (1) To create, distribute or deliver, or possess with intent
- 22 to distribute or deliver, an imitation controlled substance; or
- 23 (2) To create, possess or sell or otherwise transfer any 24 equipment with the intent that such equipment shall be used to

- 1 apply a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint,
- 2 number or device, or any likeness thereof, upon a counterfeit
- 3 substance, an imitation controlled substance, or the container or
- 4 label of a counterfeit substance or an imitation controlled
- 5 substance.

16 or both fined and imprisoned.

- 6 (3) Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a 7 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be imprisoned in jail for not 8 less than six months nor more than one year, or fined not more than 9 \$5,000, or both <u>fined and confined</u>. Any person being eighteen 10 years old or more who violates subdivision (1) of this subsection 11 and, in so doing, distributes or delivers an imitation controlled 12 substance to a minor child who is at least three years younger than 13 such person is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, may be 14 imprisoned in the <u>a</u> state correctional facility for not less than 15 one year nor more than three years, or fined not more than \$10,000,
- 17 (4) The provisions of Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall 18 not apply to a practitioner who administers or dispenses a placebo.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the felony offense of possession of one gram or more of cocaine.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.