2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 599

October 7, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives MURPHY, CABRAL-GUEVARA, SINICKI and WICHGERS, cosponsored by Senators FELZKOWSKI and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on State Affairs.

AN ACT to repeal 961.14 (7) (mk) and 961.14 (7) (mL); and to create 100.365 and 941.41 of the statutes; relating to: regulating kratom products, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill defines kratom products as products intended for human or animal consumption, including food, drink, chewing gum, and food supplements, made from any part of a leaf of the Mitragyna speciosa plant, and legalizes the manufacture, distribution, delivery, and possession of kratom.

Under current law, kratom is classified as a Schedule I controlled substance and if a person manufactures, distributes, or delivers kratom, he or she is guilty of a Class H felony, and if a person possesses kratom he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor. The bill removes kratom from the schedule of controlled substances and legalizes the manufacture, distribution, delivery, and possession of kratom, subject to certain limitations.

Under the bill, a person who prepares or processes a kratom product (a processor) may not distribute the product if it 1) is mixed or packed with another substance that affects the kratom product’s quality or strength to such a degree that it may cause injury; 2) contains a poisonous ingredient, controlled substance, or controlled substance analog; 3) contains a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine that is greater than 2 percent; 4) contains any synthetic alkaloid; or 5) does not include a label that states the amount of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine contained in the product. The bill also prohibits the sale of a kratom product to any person...
under the age of 21. A person who violates either of these provisions is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

The bill also requires a processor to obtain a food processing plant license from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and to register a kratom product before distributing it. A processor who prepares, processes, sells, offers for sale, or distributes a kratom product that is not registered with DATCP or without a food processing license is subject to a monetary penalty, to be determined by DATCP by rule.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 100.365 of the statutes is created to read:

100.365 Kratom. (1) In this section:

(a) “Kratom product” means any part of a leaf of the Mitragyna speciosa plant and any product intended for human or animal consumption, including food, drink, chewing gum, and food supplements, made from any part of a leaf of the Mitragyna speciosa plant.

(b) “Processor” means any person who prepares or processes a kratom product and sells, offers for sale, or distributes the kratom product to a wholesaler or retail seller.

(2) A processor may not prepare, process, sell, offer for sale, or distribute a kratom product if any of the following applies:

(a) The kratom product is not registered with the department under sub. (3).

(b) The kratom processor is not licensed as a food processing plant under s. 97.29.
(3) The department shall maintain a registry, accessible by processors, that includes the kratom products that may be sold in this state.

(4) The department may seize and destroy any kratom products offered for sale in this state that are not registered under sub. (3).

(5) The department shall promulgate rules for the administration and enforcement of this section, including all of the following:
   (a) Standards for testing a kratom product for safety for human or animal consumption.
   (b) Standards for accurate labeling.
   (c) Requirements and methods for adding a kratom product to the registry under sub. (3).
   (d) A fee for registering a product under sub. (3).
   (e) Monetary penalties for violating sub. (2) (a) or (b).

Section 2. 941.41 of the statutes is created to read:

941.41 Kratom. (1) In this section:
   (a) “Kratom product” has the meaning given in s. 100.365 (1) (a).
   (b) “Processor” has the meaning given in s. 100.365 (1) (b).

(2) (a) A processor may not sell, offer for sale, or distribute a kratom product if any of the following applies:
   1. The kratom product is mixed or packed with a substance other than kratom product that affects the quality or strength of the kratom product to such a degree the kratom product may cause injury.
   2. The kratom product contains a poisonous or otherwise deleterious ingredient other than kratom, including any controlled substance, as defined in s. 961.01 (4), or any controlled substance analog, as defined in s. 961.01 (4m).
3. The kratom product contains a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine in the alkaloid fraction that is greater than 2 percent of the alkaloid composition of the kratom product.

4. The kratom product contains any synthetic alkaloid, including synthetic mitragynine, synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine, or any other synthetically derived compound of the Mitragyna speciosa plant.

5. The kratom product does not include a product label on its packaging that states the amount of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine contained in the packaged kratom product.

   (b) A processor who violates par. (a) is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

   (c) A processor does not violate par. (a) if the processor shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the processor relied in good faith on the representation of a manufacturer, a packer, a distributor, or another processor relating to a product represented to be a kratom product.

(3) (a) No person may sell, offer for sale, or distribute a kratom product to any person under the age of 21.

   (b) A person who violates par. (a) is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. 961.14 (7) (mk) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 4. 961.14 (7) (mL) of the statutes is repealed.