

## **Novel Opioid Control Act**

HB 258 (Reps. Blackwell, Arp, Sambeth & Sasser)

*Staying ahead of drug traffickers & protecting North Carolinians from the next fentanyl*

Drafted by State Crime Lab scientists, the Novel Opioid Control Act updates our state Controlled Substances Act to protect North Carolinians from the next fentanyl in the form of nitazines – an evolving class of opioids that can be up to 40 times more powerful than fentanyl. As nitazines continue to infiltrate illicit drug markets and endanger our communities, experts are concerned that the overdose reversal drug naloxone may not be effective against nitazines or may have to be delivered in higher doses.

While the Controlled Substances Act lists four specific nitazine compounds, it does not include all known compounds and does not include “catch-all” language to cover new nitazine compounds that drug traffickers are likely develop in the coming months and years.

In addition, the Novel Opioid Control Act addresses new opioid compounds from the cinnamylpiperazine class and utopioid class, enumerating nearly forty new opioid compounds that are increasingly found in North Carolina drug supplies. The bill also offers important technical corrections to the Controlled Substances Act, updating and aligning certain drug naming conventions with those employed by the broader scientific community.