

## Chapter 748

**(House Bill 1229)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Health – Kratom Consumer Protection Act**

FOR the purpose of requiring a retailer that prepares, distributes, sells, or exposes for sale ~~a food that is represented to be~~ a kratom product to disclose the factual basis on which the representation is made; establishing prohibitions related to the preparation, distribution, and sale of kratom products; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Maryland Hospital Association, to report to the General Assembly, on or before a certain date, on the number of adverse health events observed in individuals after the use of opioid-like substances, including kratom and tianeptine; and generally relating to kratom.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 21–2D–01 through 21–2D–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2D.  
Kratom Consumer Protection Act”Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General****SUBTITLE 2D. KRATOM CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT.****21–2D–01.**

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “**KRATOM PRODUCT**” MEANS A ~~FOOD PRODUCT OR DIETARY INGREDIENT~~ PRODUCT MARKETED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION CONTAINING ANY PART OF THE LEAF OF THE PLANT **MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA**.

(C) (1) “**RETAILER**” MEANS A PERSON THAT:

(I) SELLS, PREPARES, OR MAINTAINS KRATOM PRODUCTS; OR

(II) ADVERTISES, REPRESENTS, OR HOLDS ITSELF OUT AS SELLING, PREPARING, OR MAINTAINING KRATOM PRODUCTS.

(2) “RETAILER” INCLUDES A MANUFACTURER, WHOLESALER, STORE, RESTAURANT, HOTEL, CATERING FACILITY, CAMP, BAKERY, DELICATESSEN, SUPERMARKET, GROCERY STORE, CONVENIENCE STORE, GAS STATION, OR FOOD OR DRINK COMPANY.

21-2D-02.

(A) (1) A RETAILER THAT PREPARES, DISTRIBUTES, SELLS, OR EXPOSES FOR SALE ~~A FOOD THAT IS REPRESENTED TO BE~~ A KRATOM PRODUCT SHALL DISCLOSE ON THE PRODUCT LABEL THE FACTUAL BASIS ON WHICH THE REPRESENTATION IS MADE.

(2) A RETAILER MAY NOT PREPARE, DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE FOR SALE ~~A FOOD REPRESENTED TO BE~~ A KRATOM PRODUCT THAT ~~DOES~~:

(I) DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR

(II) HAS NOT BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A DIETARY INGREDIENT OR APPROVED DRUG BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A RETAILER MAY NOT PREPARE, DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE FOR SALE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) A KRATOM PRODUCT THAT IS ADULTERATED WITH A DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN KRATOM;

(II) A KRATOM PRODUCT THAT IS CONTAMINATED WITH A DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN KRATOM;

(III) A KRATOM PRODUCT CONTAINING A LEVEL OF 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE IN THE ALKALOID FRACTION THAT IS GREATER THAN 2% OF THE ALKALOID COMPOSITION OF THE PRODUCT;

(IV) A KRATOM PRODUCT CONTAINING A SYNTHETIC ALKALOID, INCLUDING SYNTHETIC MITRAGYNINE, SYNTHETIC 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE, OR ANY OTHER SYNTHETICALLY DERIVED COMPOUND OF THE KRATOM PLANT; OR

(V) A PRODUCT CONTAINING KRATOM THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE ON ITS PACKAGE OR LABEL THE AMOUNT OF MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE CONTAINED IN THE PRODUCT.

**(2) (I) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A KRATOM PRODUCT IS ADULTERATED WITH A DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN KRATOM IF:**

**1. THE KRATOM PRODUCT IS MIXED OR PACKED WITH A SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN KRATOM; AND**

**2. THAT SUBSTANCE AFFECTS THE QUALITY OR STRENGTH OF THE KRATOM PRODUCT TO A DEGREE AS TO RENDER THE KRATOM PRODUCT INJURIOUS TO A CONSUMER.**

**(II) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A KRATOM PRODUCT IS CONTAMINATED WITH A DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN KRATOM IF THE KRATOM PRODUCT CONTAINS A POISONOUS OR OTHERWISE DELETERIOUS INGREDIENT OTHER THAN KRATOM, INCLUDING A DRUG THAT IS DESIGNATED AS A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE UNDER TITLE 5 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.**

**(C) A RETAILER MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EXPOSE FOR SALE A KRATOM PRODUCT TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS.**

**(D) IN A PROSECUTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, IT IS A DEFENSE THAT THE DEFENDANT RELIED IN GOOD FAITH ON THE REPRESENTATIONS OF A MANUFACTURER, PROCESSOR, PACKER, OR DISTRIBUTOR OF ~~FOOD REPRESENTED TO BE~~ A KRATOM PRODUCT.**

**(E) A RETAILER THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING:**

**(1) ~~\$500~~ \$1,000 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION; AND**

**(2) ~~\$1,000~~ \$2,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION.**

**(F) A RETAILER THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (A)(2), (B), OR (C) OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING ~~\$500~~ \$5,000, IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS, OR BOTH.**

**(G) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION, A RETAILER WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS LIABLE FOR ANY CIVIL DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTING FROM THE VIOLATION.**

**(A) A RETAILER MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ADVERTISE A THERAPEUTIC BENEFIT OF KRATOM.**

**~~(A)~~ (B) A RETAILER MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ADVERTISE OR MARKET KRATOM PRODUCTS TO MINORS.**

**~~(B)~~ (C) IT IS A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION ~~(A)~~ (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR A RETAILER TO USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN THE ADVERTISING, PROMOTION, PACKAGING, OR LABELING OF A KRATOM PRODUCT:**

- (1) A CARTOON;**
- (2) A SUPERHERO;**
- (3) A VIDEO GAME REFERENCE;**
- (4) AN IMAGE OF A FOOD PRODUCT PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR MINORS;**
- (5) A TRADEMARK THAT IMITATES OR MIMICS THE TRADEMARK OF A PRODUCT THAT HAS BEEN ADVERTISED OR MARKETED PRIMARILY TO MINORS;**
- (6) A SYMBOL OR CELEBRITY THAT IS PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH MINORS OR MEDIA PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO MINORS; AND**
- (7) AN IMAGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE AGE OF 27 YEARS.**

**~~(C)~~ (D) IT IS A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION ~~(A)~~ (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR A RETAILER TO ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE A KRATOM PRODUCT:**

- (1) IN A NEWSPAPER, A MAGAZINE, A PERIODICAL, OR ANY OTHER PUBLICATION FOR WHICH INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS CONSTITUTE 15% OR MORE OF THE TOTAL AUDIENCE, AS MEASURED BY COMPETENT AND RELIABLE SURVEY EVIDENCE;**
- (2) AT A CONCERT, A STADIUM, A SPORTING EVENT, OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC EVENT FOR WHICH INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS CONSTITUTE 15% OR MORE OF THE TOTAL AUDIENCE, AS MEASURED BY COMPETENT AND RELIABLE SURVEY EVIDENCE; OR**
- (3) ON AN OUTDOOR BILLBOARD OR SIGN BOARD THAT IS WITHIN 500 FEET OF A SCHOOL.**

**21-2D-04.**

**THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Maryland Hospital Association, shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the number of adverse health events observed in individuals after the use of opioid-like substances, including kratom and tianeptine.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.**