

**HB 3030 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Hayden

**House Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 04/12/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits business that makes retail sales of nitrous oxide canisters from which an individual may directly inhale nitrous oxide, or employee of business, from selling or delivering nitrous oxide canister to individual who is under 21 years of age. Punishes violators by maximum of one year imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both. Creates exception.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Whip-its are small canister of compressed nitrous oxide intended for cooking and/or baking, but can be inhaled for a momentary high
- Teenager use on the rise
- Unintended consequences of using whip-its
- Ease of accessing whip-its

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Changes the prohibition of selling of nitrous oxide to individuals under 18 years of age to 21 years of age.

**BACKGROUND:**

Dentists routinely use nitrous oxide for its pain-numbing effects. A commonly abused form of nitrous oxide is found in small, pressurized food-preparation containers called “whip-its,” or EZ Whip. Users place the whip-it in a “cracker” (a type of valve device) and then place a balloon on one end of the cracker and turn it until the whip-it pops. Teens and young adults are using it for an intense but brief high. A blast of nitrous oxide from a balloon can, within eight to 10 seconds, cause dizziness, giddiness, disorientation and, occasionally, visual hallucinations. Often taken with the drug Ecstasy, nitrous oxide can cause confusion, headaches and a sensation that one is about to pass out or faint.