

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1785 (Hoover) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes online sales of pseudoephedrine and related medications for personal use under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA).

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Expands the definition of “retail distributor” of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, norpseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine products (collectively, PSE medications) under the UCSA to include an online retailer.
- 2) Specifies the online sale of PSE medications may be fulfilled via delivery, in-person pickup, or curbside pickup.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

The Department of Justice reports no significant costs.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association. According to the author:

This bill allows for the online sale of [PSE medications] while maintaining all federal and state mandated security restrictions. Online retailers would still be required to validate a person’s identity to ensure they have not already purchased their legally allowable maximum of PSE.

- 2) **Background. PSE Medications.** Pseudoephedrine is a central nervous system stimulant and effective nasal decongestant and sinus reliever, and is a primary ingredient in many allergy and cold medications. Derivatives and alternative formulations of pseudoephedrine, including PSE medications, have similar therapeutic effects and uses. PSE medications are also chemical precursors to methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance under both the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and California’s UCSA, meaning it has accepted medical uses but has a high potential for abuse.

The UCSA requires a retail distributor to comply with specific requirements for the sale of

certain controlled substances, including selling no more than nine grams of a PSE medication or three packages of a product containing a PSE medication in a single transaction. A “retail distributor” is defined in statute to include a grocery store, general merchandise store, drugstore, or other related entity that sells PSE medications directly to consumers; online retailers are not included under this definition and are therefore not authorized to sell PSE medications in California. Under this bill, online purchases of PSE medications would be subject to the same requirements as purchases from physical retailers.

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