
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 634 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Tianeptine

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 11 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 634 would prohibit an entity from manufacturing, distributing, or offering for sale in this state a product that contains tianeptine or that is marketed as containing tianeptine.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Department of Justice indicates no significant fiscal impact to the department.
- Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts related to enforcement of civil penalties under the bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

Background: According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), tianeptine is an opioid that is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for any medical use. NIDA-funded research suggests that most people take tianeptine in dietary supplements marketed as cognitive enhancers or nootropics, often sold in convenience stores and online. It may be blended with or taken at the same time as other nootropics (like phenibut and racetams) and is also used with substances such as kratom, kava, and gabapentin. Like other opioids, tianeptine can cause dangerous drops in blood pressure, heart rate, or breathing rate. Research shows that other effects include problems with brain, heart, and digestive function, and that tianeptine can cause symptoms of an opioid use disorder, including tolerance (when one needs to take more of a drug for it to have the same level of effect) and withdrawal, which has been associated with pain and problems with brain, heart, and digestive function. NIDA further states early evidence suggests that tianeptine-related substance use disorder can benefit from medication-assisted treatment.

The FDA has taken steps to protect people from tianeptine products, including warning consumers that tianeptine is an unsafe food additive. In addition, tianeptine is not a dietary ingredient. Further, the FDA has issued warning letters to companies distributing and selling unlawful tianeptine products as dietary supplements and unapproved drugs, and has also issued import alerts to help detain tianeptine shipments at U.S. borders.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Prohibit an entity from manufacturing, distributing, or offering for sale in this state a product that contains tianeptine or that is marketed as containing tianeptine.
- Provide that upon an action brought by the Attorney General, a city attorney, or a county counsel, an entity that violates this provision is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for a first violation, and not to exceed \$5,000 for each subsequent violation; and provide that a prevailing plaintiff in an action is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

-- END --