STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 2281 By: Echols of the House

and

Paxton of the Senate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 265, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 2-101), which relates to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; defining term; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-406, which relates to penalties for violating the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; making certain acts unlawful; updating statutory language; updating statutory reference; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 265, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 2-101), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-101. As used in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act:

1. "Administer" means the direct application of a controlled dangerous substance, whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion or any other means, to the body of a patient, animal or research subject by:

a. a practitioner (or, in the presence of the practitioner, by the authorized agent of the practitioner), or

b. the patient or research subject at the direction and in the presence of the practitioner;

2. "Agent" means a peace officer appointed by and who acts on behalf of the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control or an authorized person who acts on behalf of or at the direction of a person who manufactures, distributes, dispenses, prescribes, administers or uses for scientific purposes controlled dangerous substances but does not include a common or contract carrier, public warehouser or employee thereof, or a person required to register under the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act;

3. "Board" means the Advisory Board to the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control;

4. "Bureau" means the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control;

5. "Coca leaves" includes cocaine and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of coca

leaves, except derivatives of coca leaves which do not contain cocaine or ecgonine;

6. "Commissioner" or "Director" means the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control;

7. "Control" means to add, remove or change the placement of a drug, substance or immediate precursor under the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act;

8. "Controlled dangerous substance" means a drug, substance or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act or any drug, substance or immediate precursor listed either temporarily or permanently as a federally controlled substance. Any conflict between state and federal law with regard to the particular schedule in which a substance is listed shall be resolved in favor of state law;

9. "Counterfeit substance" means a controlled substance which, or the container or labeling of which without authorization, bears the trademark, trade name or other identifying marks, imprint, number or device or any likeness thereof of a manufacturer, distributor or dispenser other than the person who in fact manufactured, distributed or dispensed the substance;

10. "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive or attempted transfer from one person to another of a controlled dangerous substance or drug paraphernalia, whether or not there is an agency relationship;

11. "Dispense" means to deliver a controlled dangerous substance to an ultimate user or human research subject by or pursuant to the lawful order of a practitioner, including the prescribing, administering, packaging, labeling or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for such distribution. "Dispenser" is a practitioner who delivers a controlled dangerous substance to an ultimate user or human research subject;

12. "Distribute" means to deliver other than by administering or dispensing a controlled dangerous substance;

13. "Distributor" means a commercial entity engaged in the distribution or reverse distribution of narcotics and dangerous drugs and who complies with all regulations promulgated by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control;

14. "Drug" means articles:

a. recognized in the official United States Pharmacopeia, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them,

b. intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in man or other animals,

c. other than food, intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals, and

d. intended for use as a component of any article specified in this paragraph;

provided, however, the term ~~"drug"~~ drug does not include devices or their components, parts or accessories;

15. "Drug-dependent person" means a person who is using a controlled dangerous substance and who is in a state of psychic or physical dependence, or both, arising from administration of that controlled dangerous substance on a continuous basis. Drug dependence is characterized by behavioral and other responses which include a strong compulsion to take the substance on a continuous basis in order to experience its psychic effects, or to avoid the discomfort of its absence;

16. "Home care agency" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, association, corporation, or other organization which administers, offers, or provides home care services, for a fee or pursuant to a contract for such services, to clients in their place of residence;

17. "Home care services" means skilled or personal care services provided to clients in their place of residence for a fee;

18. "Hospice" means a centrally administered, nonprofit or for-profit, medically directed, nurse-coordinated program which provides a continuum of home and inpatient care for the terminally ill patient and the patient's family. Such term shall also include a centrally administered, nonprofit or for-profit, medically directed,

nurse-coordinated program if such program is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. A hospice program offers palliative and supportive care to meet the special needs arising out of the physical, emotional and spiritual stresses which are experienced during the final stages of illness and during dying and bereavement. This care is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, and is provided on the basis of need, regardless of ability to pay. "Class A" Hospice refers to Medicare-certified hospices. "Class B" refers to all other providers of hospice services;

19. "Imitation controlled substance" means a substance that is not a controlled dangerous substance, which by dosage unit appearance, color, shape, size, markings or by representations made, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is a controlled dangerous substance. In the event the appearance of the dosage unit is not reasonably sufficient to establish that the substance is an ~~"imitation controlled substance"~~ imitation controlled substance, the court or authority concerned should consider, in addition to all other factors, the following factors as related to "representations made" in determining whether the substance is an ~~"imitation controlled substance"~~ imitation controlled substance:

a. statements made by an owner or by any other person in control of the substance concerning the nature of the substance, or its use or effect,

b. statements made to the recipient that the substance may be resold for inordinate profit,

c. whether the substance is packaged in a manner normally used for illicit controlled substances,

d. evasive tactics or actions utilized by the owner or person in control of the substance to avoid detection by law enforcement authorities,

e. prior convictions, if any, of an owner, or any other person in control of the object, under state or federal law related to controlled substances or fraud, and

f. the proximity of the substances to controlled dangerous substances;

20. "Immediate precursor" means a substance which the Director has found to be and by regulation designates as being the principal compound commonly used or produced primarily for use, and which is an immediate chemical intermediary used, or likely to be used, in the manufacture of a controlled dangerous substance, the control of which is necessary to prevent, curtail or limit such manufacture;

21. "Laboratory" means a laboratory approved by the Director as proper to be entrusted with the custody of controlled dangerous

substances and the use of controlled dangerous substances for scientific and medical purposes and for purposes of instruction;

22. "Manufacture" means the production, preparation, propagation, compounding or processing of a controlled dangerous substance, either directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of natural or synthetic origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis. "Manufacturer" includes any person who packages, repackages or labels any container of any controlled dangerous substance, except practitioners who dispense or compound prescription orders for delivery to the ultimate consumer;

23. "Marijuana" means all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin, but shall not include:

a. the mature stalks of such plant or fiber produced from such stalks,

b. oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, including cannabidiol derived from the seeds of the marijuana plant,

c. any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such mature stalks (except

the resin extracted therefrom), including cannabidiol derived from mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake,

d. the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination,

e. for any person participating in a clinical trial to administer cannabidiol for the treatment of severe forms of epilepsy pursuant to Section 2-802 of this title, a drug or substance approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use by those participants,

f. for any person or the parents, legal guardians or caretakers of the person who have received a written certification from a physician licensed in this state that the person has been diagnosed by a physician as having Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, Dravet syndrome, also known as severe myoclonic epilepsy of infancy, or any other severe form of epilepsy that is not adequately treated by traditional medical therapies, spasticity due to multiple sclerosis or due to paraplegia, intractable nausea and vomiting, appetite stimulation with chronic wasting diseases, the substance cannabidiol, a nonpsychoactive cannabinoid, found in the plant Cannabis sativa L. or any other preparation thereof, that has a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration

of not more than three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) and that is delivered to the patient in the form of a liquid,

g. any federal Food-and-Drug-Administration-approved drug or substance, or

h. industrial hemp, from the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) on a dry-weight basis which shall only be grown pursuant to the Oklahoma Industrial Hemp Program and may be shipped intrastate and interstate;

24. "Medical purpose" means an intention to utilize a controlled dangerous substance for physical or mental treatment, for diagnosis, or for the prevention of a disease condition not in violation of any state or federal law and not for the purpose of satisfying physiological or psychological dependence or other abuse;

25. "Mid-level practitioner" means an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse as defined and within parameters specified in Section 567.3a of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a certified animal euthanasia technician as defined in Section 698.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or an animal control officer registered by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control under subsection B of Section 2-301 of this title within the

parameters of such officer's duties under Sections 501 through 508 of Title 4 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

26. "Narcotic drug" means any of the following, whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis:

a. opium, coca leaves and opiates,

b. a compound, manufacture, salt, derivative or preparation of opium, coca leaves or opiates,

c. cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers,

d. ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers and salts of isomers, and

e. a substance, and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative or preparation thereof, which is chemically identical with any of the substances referred to in subparagraphs a through d of this paragraph, except that the words ~~"narcotic drug"~~ narcotic drug as used in Section 2-101 et seq. of this title shall not include decocainized coca leaves or extracts of coca leaves, which extracts do not contain cocaine or ecgonine;

27. "Opiate" or "opioid" means any Schedule II, III, IV or V substance having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining

liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability. The terms do not include, unless specifically designated as controlled under the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, the dextrorotatory isomer of 3-methoxy-n-methyl-morphinan and its salts (dextromethorphan). The terms do include the racemic and levorotatory forms;

28. "Opium poppy" means the plant of the species Papaver somniferum L., except the seeds thereof;

29. "Peace officer" means a police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, district attorney's investigator, investigator from the Office of the Attorney General, or any other person elected or appointed by law to enforce any of the criminal laws of this state or of the United States;

30. "Person" means an individual, corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, or any other legal entity;

31. "Poppy straw" means all parts, except the seeds, of the opium poppy, after mowing;

32. "Practitioner" means:

a. (1) a medical doctor or osteopathic physician,

(2) a dentist,

(3) a podiatrist,

(4) an optometrist,

(5) a veterinarian,

(6) a physician assistant or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse under the supervision of a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician,

(7) a scientific investigator, or

(8) any other person,

licensed, registered or otherwise permitted to prescribe, distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to, use for scientific purposes or administer a controlled dangerous substance in the course of professional practice or research in this state, or

b. a pharmacy, hospital, laboratory or other institution licensed, registered or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to, use for scientific purposes or administer a controlled dangerous substance in the course of professional practice or research in this state;

33. "Production" includes the manufacture, planting, cultivation, growing or harvesting of a controlled dangerous substance;

34. "State" means the State of Oklahoma or any other state of the United States;

35. "Ultimate user" means a person who lawfully possesses a controlled dangerous substance for the person's own use or for the

use of a member of the person's household or for administration to an animal owned by the person or by a member of the person's household;

36. "Drug paraphernalia" means all equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body, a controlled dangerous substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act including, but not limited to:

a. kits used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing or harvesting of any species of plant which is a controlled dangerous substance or from which a controlled dangerous substance can be derived,

b. kits used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing or preparing controlled dangerous substances,

c. isomerization devices used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in increasing the

potency of any species of plant which is a controlled dangerous substance,

d. testing equipment used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in identifying, or in analyzing the strength, effectiveness or purity of controlled dangerous substances,

e. scales and balances used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in weighing or measuring controlled dangerous substances,

f. diluents and adulterants, such as quinine hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite, dextrose and lactose, used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in cutting controlled dangerous substances,

g. separation gins and sifters used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise cleaning or refining, marijuana,

h. blenders, bowls, containers, spoons and mixing devices used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in compounding controlled dangerous substances,

i. capsules, balloons, envelopes and other containers used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for

use in packaging small quantities of controlled dangerous substances,

j. containers and other objects used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in parenterally injecting controlled dangerous substances into the human body,

k. hypodermic syringes, needles and other objects used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in parenterally injecting controlled dangerous substances into the human body,

l. objects used, intended for use, or fashioned specifically for use in ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing marijuana, cocaine, hashish or hashish oil into the human body, such as:

(1) metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or punctured metal bowls,

(2) water pipes,

(3) carburetion tubes and devices,

(4) smoking and carburetion masks,

(5) roach clips, meaning objects used to hold burning material, such as a marijuana cigarette, that has become too small or too short to be held in the hand,

(6) miniature cocaine spoons and cocaine vials,

(7) chamber pipes,

(8) carburetor pipes,

(9) electric pipes,

(10) air-driven pipes,

(11) chillums,

(12) bongs, or

(13) ice pipes or chillers,

m. all hidden or novelty pipes, and

n. any pipe that has a tobacco bowl or chamber of less than one-half (1/2) inch in diameter in which there is any detectable residue of any controlled dangerous substance as defined in this section or any other substances not legal for possession or use;

provided, however, the term ~~"drug paraphernalia"~~ drug paraphernalia shall not include separation gins intended for use in preparing tea or spice, clamps used for constructing electrical equipment, water pipes designed for ornamentation in which no detectable amount of an illegal substance is found or pipes designed and used solely for smoking tobacco, traditional pipes of an American Indian tribal religious ceremony, or antique pipes that are thirty (30) years of age or older;

37. a. "Synthetic controlled substance" means a substance:

(1) the chemical structure of which is substantially similar to the chemical structure of a controlled dangerous substance in Schedule I or II,

(2) which has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to or greater than the stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled dangerous substance in Schedule I or II, or

(3) with respect to a particular person, which such person represents or intends to have a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to or greater than the stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled dangerous substance in Schedule I or II.

b. The designation of gamma butyrolactone or any other chemical as a precursor, pursuant to Section 2-322 of this title, does not preclude a finding pursuant to subparagraph a of this paragraph that the chemical is a synthetic controlled substance.

c. "Synthetic controlled substance" does not include:

(1) a controlled dangerous substance,

(2) any substance for which there is an approved new drug application,

(3) with respect to a particular person any substance, if an exemption is in effect for investigational use, for that person under the provisions of Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 355, to the extent conduct with respect to such substance is pursuant to such exemption, or

(4) any substance to the extent not intended for human consumption before such an exemption takes effect with respect to that substance.

d. Prima facie evidence that a substance containing salvia divinorum has been enhanced, concentrated or chemically or physically altered shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption that the substance is a synthetic controlled substance;

38. "Tetrahydrocannabinols" means all substances that have been chemically synthesized to emulate the tetrahydrocannabinols of marijuana, specifically including any tetrahydrocannabinols derived from industrial hemp;

39. "Isomer" means the optical isomer, except as used in subsections C and F of Section 2-204 of this title and paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 2-206 of this title. As used in subsections C and F of Section 2-204 of this title, ~~"isomer"~~ isomer means the optical, positional or geometric isomer. As used in paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 2-206 of this title, the term ~~"isomer"~~ isomer means the optical or geometric isomer;

40. "Hazardous materials" means materials, whether solid, liquid or gas, which are toxic to human, animal, aquatic or plant life, and the disposal of which materials is controlled by state or federal guidelines;

41. "Anhydrous ammonia" means any substance that exhibits cryogenic evaporative behavior and tests positive for ammonia;

42. "Acute pain" means pain, whether resulting from disease, accidental or intentional trauma or other cause, that the practitioner reasonably expects to last only a short period of time. ~~"Acute pain"~~ Acute pain does not include chronic pain, pain being treated as part of cancer care, hospice or other end-of-life care, or pain being treated as part of palliative care;

43. "Chronic pain" means pain that persists beyond the usual course of an acute disease or healing of an injury. ~~"Chronic pain"~~ Chronic pain may or may not be associated with an acute or chronic pathologic process that causes continuous or intermittent pain over months or years;

44. "Initial prescription" means a prescription issued to a patient who:

a. has never previously been issued a prescription for the drug or its pharmaceutical equivalent in the past year, or

b. requires a prescription for the drug or its pharmaceutical equivalent due to a surgical procedure or new acute event and has previously had a prescription for the drug or its pharmaceutical equivalent within the past year.

When determining whether a patient was previously issued a prescription for a drug or its pharmaceutical equivalent, the practitioner shall consult with the patient and review the medical record and prescription monitoring information of the patient;

45. "Patient-provider agreement" means a written contract or agreement that is executed between a practitioner and a patient, prior to the commencement of treatment for chronic pain using an opioid drug as a means to:

a. explain the possible risk of development of physical or psychological dependence in the patient and prevent the possible development of addiction,

b. document the understanding of both the practitioner and the patient regarding the patient-provider agreement of the patient,

c. establish the rights of the patient in association with treatment and the obligations of the patient in relation to the responsible use, discontinuation of use, and storage of opioid drugs, including any restrictions on the refill of prescriptions or the acceptance of opioid prescriptions from practitioners,

d. identify the specific medications and other modes of treatment, including physical therapy or exercise, relaxation or psychological counseling, that are included as a part of the patient-provider agreement,

e. specify the measures the practitioner may employ to monitor the compliance of the patient including, but not limited to, random specimen screens and pill counts, and

f. delineate the process for terminating the agreement, including the consequences if the practitioner has reason to believe that the patient is not complying with the terms of the agreement. Compliance with the "consent items" shall constitute a valid, informed consent for opioid therapy. The practitioner shall be held harmless from civil litigation for failure to treat pain if the event occurs because of nonadherence by the patient with any of the provisions of the patient-provider agreement;

46. "Serious illness" means a medical illness or physical injury or condition that substantially affects quality of life for more than a short period of time. ~~"Serious illness"~~ Serious illness includes, but is not limited to, Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, lung disease, cancer, heart failure, renal failure, liver failure or chronic, unremitting or intractable pain such as neuropathic pain; ~~and~~

47. "Surgical procedure" means a procedure that is performed for the purpose of structurally altering the human body by incision or destruction of tissues as part of the practice of medicine. This term includes the diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of conditions or disease processes by use of instruments such as lasers, ultrasound, ionizing, radiation, scalpels, probes or needles that cause localized alteration or transportation of live human tissue by cutting, burning, vaporizing, freezing, suturing, probing or manipulating by closed reduction for major dislocations or fractures, or otherwise altering by any mechanical, thermal, light-based, electromagnetic or chemical means; and

48. "Straw person" or "straw party" also known as a "front" means a third party who:

a. is put up in name only to take part in a transaction or otherwise is a nominal party to a transaction,

b. acts on behalf of another person to obtain title to property and executes documents and instruments the principal may direct respecting property, or

c. purchases property for another for the purpose of concealing the identity of the real purchaser or to accomplish some purpose otherwise in violation of Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-406, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-406. A. It shall be unlawful for any registrant knowingly or intentionally:

1. To distribute, other than by dispensing or as otherwise authorized by ~~this act~~ the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, a controlled dangerous substance classified in Schedules I or II, in the course of his or her legitimate business, except pursuant to an order form as required by Section 2-308 of this title;

2. To use in the course of the manufacture or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance a registration number which is fictitious, revoked, suspended or issued to another person;

3. To acquire or obtain possession of a controlled dangerous substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge;

4. To furnish false or fraudulent material information in, or omit any material information from, any application, report, or

other document required to be kept or filed under ~~this act~~ the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, or any record required to be kept by ~~this act~~ the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; ~~and~~

5. To make, distribute, or possess any punch, die, plate, stone, or other thing designed to print, imprint, or reproduce the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device of another or any likeness of any of the foregoing upon any drug or container or labeling thereof so as to render such drug a counterfeit controlled dangerous substance; and

6. To purchase, or attempt, endeavor, or conspire to obtain or purchase, any license or registration required to distribute, possess, prescribe, or manufacture any controlled dangerous substance on behalf of, or at the request or demand of, any other person through the use of a straw person or straw party.

B. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) years or a fine ~~of~~ not more than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000.00), or both.

C. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this section is punishable by a term of imprisonment twice that otherwise authorized and by twice the fine otherwise authorized. Convictions for second or subsequent violations of this section

shall not be subject to statutory provisions for suspended sentences, deferred sentences, or probation.

D. Any person convicted of any offense described in this section shall, in addition to any fine imposed, pay a special assessment trauma-care fee of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be deposited into the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund created in Section ~~1-2522~~ 1-2530.9 of this title.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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