LA. HOUSE OK'S NEW DRUG LAW

Aim Is Agreement with Federal Act

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(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana House Sunday gave final legislative passage to a tightened drug control law which follows provisions of the federal dangerous substances act.

The drug measure, Senate Bill 162 by Sen. Jack Montgomery of Springhill and Rep. Arthur A. Crais of New Orleans, increases from four to five the number of schedules of controlled dangerous substances to provide for exact conformity in this respect to the federal act. It was passed by a vote 84 to 2.

Approved as an amendment to an act passed by the Legislature last year which became effective on July 29, 1970, the bill provides that complete inventories be made by all licensees manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing controlled dangerous substances who have begun their activities after the effective date of the act.

Prior to its passage, the House adopted floor amendments by Rep. Salvador Anzelmo of New Orleans, which Crais contended weakened the bill. The amendments eliminated a provision under which the State Board of Health would be permitted to add to the definition of "controlled dangerous substances."

The Anzelmo amendments also shifted the burden of proof from the accused to the state in instances where "controlled dangerous substances" are found in automobiles.

ARRANGEMENTS

The bill provides for a cooperative arrangement with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy whereby requirements affecting security measures, inventories, records and reports required of Louisiana pharmacies and pharmacists shall be administratively determined by the board of pharmacy.

The House also passed by a vote of 86 to 10 Senate Bill 53 by New Orleans Sen. Michael H. O'Keefe providing that the sales tax shall not apply "to the sale of admissions to entertainment events furnished by recognized domestic non-profit civic, charitable, educational and religious organizations when the entire proceeds from such sales, except for necessary expenses connected with the entertainment events, are used for purposes for which the organizations furnishing the events were organized."

Rep. Joseph S. Casey of New Orleans told the House the state is not now collecting the sales tax on such events, but that the director of revenue had advised that he would begin collecting it unless the Legislature specifically exempted them by law.

Senate Bill 87 by New Orleans Sen. Adrian G. Duplanter increasing the state's allotment from $5 to $10 per day per child to private institutions and agencies given custody of homeless children was passed by a vote of 68 to 15.

Before passing the bill the House beat back 24 to 52 an amendment by Rep. H. B. DeJean JR. of Opelousas fixing the amount to be paid at $7.50, and 19 to 54 an amendment by Rep. Shady R. Wall of West Monroe fixing the maximum at $10, but leaving the amount to be paid in each case in the discretion of the State Department of Corrections.

Rep. Edward F. LeBreton Jr. of New Orleans, chairman of the House city affairs committee, announced that the committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. Monday to hold a hearing on Senate Bill 666 which provides for the reapportionment of the state central committee and the parish executive committee in Orleans Parish. Such revisions were made necessary by the passage of legislation reappportioning the House and the Senate, LeBreton explained.

"Mafia" NOTED

Without objection, the House passed a resolution urging members of the Legislature and the press to avoid the "indiscriminate" use of the word "Mafia."

Rep. Ben Bagert Jr. of New Orleans, author of the measure, House Concurrent Resolution 508, said the resolution under which the Legislature had authorized a committee to investigate organized crime in Louisiana had made no reference to the word "Mafia." Yet the committee had been commonly called the "Mafia committee," Bagert said.

This, said Bagert, had served "to stigmatize a large number of people of Italian descent."

The House adjourned until noon Monday.