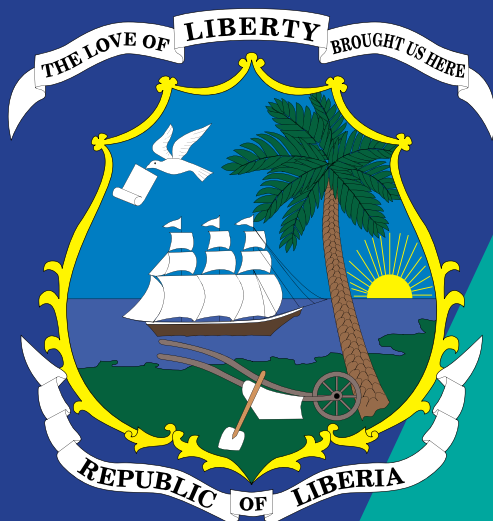


# LIBERIA'S CONTROLLED DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ACT (AMENDED) 2023



ABRIDGED VERSION

**ABRIDGED VERSION OF**

**AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 14, OFFENCES INVOLVING DANGER TO THE PERSON, TITLE 26, PENAL CODE, LIBERIAN CODES REVISED BY ADDING THERETO SUBCHAPTER (E) UNDER THE TITLE “CONTROLLED DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ACT OF 2023”**

**Assented by the President on July 12, 2023**



## INTRODUCTION

In 2021, the West Africa Drug Policy Network (WADPN), in collaboration with the office of Hon. Thomas A. Goshua and the Liberia Drug Law Enforcement Agency (LDEA), led the amendment of the “Controlled Drug and Substance Act of 2023”.

The amended act drastically reduces criminal sanctions, especially mandatory custodial sentencing for the use and possession of drugs for personal use and provides drug treatment and rehabilitation as alternatives for incarceration whilst increasing criminal penalties for drug trafficking offences, making them non-bailable.

In this Act, offences are classified as first—and second-degree felony and first—and second-degree misdemeanours. For sanctions related to these offences, the Act references Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia. Sections 50.5 and 50.6 are titled Sentence to Death or Imprisonment for Felony and Extended Terms for felony convictions, respectively. These sections outline how penalties are levied for felonious offences ([see Penal Law Liberian Codes Revised Volume IV, Title 26](#)).<sup>1</sup>

It orders the allocation of 25% of illicit drug proceeds to drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

It also requires drug (testing) clearance as a prerequisite for admission and enrollment into a public institution and encourages private institutions to adopt similar policies.

The bill was adopted into the full force of the law by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, and by the Senate on Thursday, June 29, 2023, and assented by the president of the Republic of Liberia on July 12, 2023.

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1 <https://bit.ly/libpenalcodes>

## BACKGROUND

Since its approval by the president in July 2023, there have been limited copies and public knowledge about the law and its provision, especially among people who use drugs, the enforcement of the law and probably the judiciary. This posed a serious threat to human rights and HIV interventions in Liberia, given the fact that the previous law, which was still referenced by key players, criminalised drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes and imposed long-term mandatory custodial sentences for drug use and possession for personal purposes.

To mitigate this threat, the West Africa Drug Policy Network (WADPN), with support from Frontline AIDS, is carrying out a series of public education and awareness-raising activities on the contents of the amended law, including an abridged version of the new law.

This is a summarised version of the “**CONTROLLED DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ACT OF 2023**,” which highlights key offences, their grading, penalties, and bail conditions. It does not represent the substantive law by any means and must not be considered as such. For more details of the law, kindly refer to the substantive law.

## DEFINITIONS

### **Controlled drug or substance:**

Means any of the drugs or substances in schedules I, II, III, IV contained in the Annex to this subchapter and as may be amended from time to time by the Minister.

### **Controlled precursors and essential chemicals:**

Means any of the precursors and essential chemicals listed in Tables I and II to this subchapter and as may be amended from time to time by the minister.

**Cultivation:** Means the cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush or cannabis plant.

**Diversions:** Means the sale, distribution, supply or transport of imported, in-transit, manufactured or produced control precursors and essential chemicals, in diluted mixture or in concentrated form, to any person or entity manufacturing any controlled drug or substance, and shall include packaging, repackaging, labelling, relabelling, or concealment of such transaction through fraud, destruction of documents, fraudulent use of permit;

**“Concealing”** means to disguise

- a. The nature source or location of the property, or
- b. Any movement of the property, or
- c. Someone’s rights in relation to the property, or
- d. The identity of any owner of the property;

**“Equipment”:** means the paraphernalia, apparatus, materials or appliances when used, intended for use or designed for use in the manufacture of any dangerous drugs or controlled precursors and essential chemicals such as reaction vessel, preparative-purifying equipment, fermenters, separatory funnel, flasks, heating mantle, gas generator or their substitute;

**(Child/Children):** means individual/ individuals under the age of eighteen years.

**Manufacture:** means all processes other than production by which drugs or substances must obtain and include refining, as well as the transformation of drugs or substances into drugs or substances. The term also includes the making of preparations other than those that mean prescriptions in pharmacies.

**Property:** Means assets of every kind, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, and legal documents or instruments evidencing title to, or interest in such assets.

**Proceed:** means any property derived from or obtained directly or indirectly through commission of an offence established in accordance with this subchapter.

**Production:** means the separation of opium, coca leaves, cannabis, and cannabis resin, from plants from which they are obtained.

**Schedule I, II, III, and IV** mean the corresponding numbered lists of drugs and substances contained in the annex to this chapter pursuant to the [1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic drugs](#), as amended by the 1972 protocol and the 1971 United Nations single convention on psychotropic substances, and as may be amended from time to time by the Minister of Health.

**“Sell”:** includes offer to sell, expose for sale, barter or exchange, delivery of possession in the expectation of future receipt of money or other value, and to have in possession for sale or any act of giving away any drug or controlled precursor or essential chemical whether for money or any other considerations.

**Table I and Table II:** mean the corresponding numbered list of precursors and essential chemicals contained in the annex of this subchapter pursuant to the 1988 United Nations convention against illicit traffic and narcotic drug and psychotropic substances and as may be amended from time to time by the Minister of Health.

**Juvenile:** means a child 14 years or more up to 18 years.

**Export or Exportation:** Means the physical transfer of drugs or substances from Liberia to another country;

**Import or Importation:** Means the physical transfer of drugs or substances to Liberia from another country;

**License and Licensed:** Means to have a written certificate or permit issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for the purposes of this subchapter.

**Minister:** Means the minister of health and Social Welfare.

**Physician:** A person licensed to practice medicine in Liberia.

**Pharmacist:** A person licensed as a Pharmacist under the laws of Liberia.

**Practitioner:** Means a medical doctor or nurse, duly authorised to practice as such under the laws of Liberia;

**Per PL sections:** means as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.

**Traffic or Trafficking:** Means, in respect of the controlled substance included in schedules I, II, III, IV, and Table I and ii contained in the Annexed to this subchapter.

- a. To sell, administer, give, provide, transfer, transport, and send or deliver the substance by any means; or
- b. To sell an authorisation to obtain the substance; or
- c. To offer to do anything mentioned in (a) or (b);



**Grading** is when a judge or court decides how serious a crime is. They might say it's a first degree, second degree, or third degree felony, or a Class A, Class B, or Class C misdemeanor. This helps determine the punishment for the crime.



**Offence:** refer to conducts or omissions that violate and are punishable under criminal law.



**Sentence** refers to the term of imprisonment or probation imposed on a convicted defendant for criminal wrongdoing.



**Bail** is the temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on condition that a sum of money is lodged to guarantee their appearance in court.

**Penalty:** A penalty is a punishment imposed by law for committing an offence.

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## 14.84 UNLICENSED EXPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES

**Offence:** Exporting any controlled drugs and substances or precursor and essential chemicals listed in all the schedules in this Act into Liberia without a license from the Minister commits an offence.



### GRADING



### Grading Category

### PENALTY



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

Drugs and substances listed in Schedule I, or Table I and Table II, for the purpose of trafficking.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years	The offence shall be a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
Drugs and substances listed in Schedule I, or Table I and Table II, for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	not less than 5 years and not exceeding 10 years.	
Drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III and IV for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	5 - 10 years	Only cash valued to the bond; or cash deposited in the bank to the value of the bond evidenced by a bank certificate.
Drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour		

# 14.85 UNLICENSED SALE, TRADING ADMINISTRATION, DISPENSATION, DELIVERY, DISTRIBUTION, DISPATCH IN TRANSIT, AND TRANSPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUG OR SUBSTANCE

**Offence:** To sell, offer for sale, trade, administer, dispense, deliver or give away to another, distributes or dispatches in transit, or transports any controlled drug and substance listed in schedules I, II, III and IV or acts as a broker in any of such transactions without a license from the Minister commits an offence.

## PENALTY



### GRADING



### Grading Category



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

Importation of Schedule I drugs or substances, or Table I and Table II for the purpose of trafficking.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years	The offence shall be a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
Importation of Schedule I drugs or substances, or Table I and Table II for purposes other than trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	5 - 10 years	Only cash, to the value twice the bond or cash deposited in the bank to the value of twice the bond evidenced by a bank certificate.
Where the subject matter of the offence is a drug or substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	shall be prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	only cash equal to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank equal to the value of the bond, as evidenced by the bank certificate, is acceptable.
Where the subject matter of the offence is a drug or substances listed in schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour on Conviction		

# 14.86 UNLICENSED MANUFACTURE OF CONTROLLED DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if the person engages in the manufacture or preparation of any drugs or substances listed in Schedules I, II, III, IV or precursors or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II without a license from the Minister.



## GRADING



## Grading Category



## Sanction/ Sentence



## Bail

drug or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor of an essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or Per PL sections	The offence shall be a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
drug or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor of an essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for purposes other than trafficking,	2nd Degree Felony	5 - 10 years	only cash to the value of twice the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
drug or substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking,	2nd Degree Felony		
drug or substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking,	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 - 5 years or more or Per PL sections	only cash to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.87. UNLAWFUL DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

**Offence:** It is an offence to divert any controlled precursor, or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II without a license from the Minister to use for illicit cultivation, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs or substances.



### GRADING



### Grading Category

### PENALTY



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

Where the subject matter of the offence is a precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose of trafficking,	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	It is a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
Where the subject matter of the offence is a precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for a purpose other than trafficking,	2nd Degree Felony		only cash to the value of twice the bond, or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.88. UNLICENSED MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORT OR DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT, INSTRUMENTS, APPARATUS AND OTHER PARAPHERNALIA FOR CONTROLLED DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES.

**Offence:** The manufacture or delivery of equipment, instruments, apparatus, and other paraphernalia for controlled drugs or substances without a license issued by the Minister.



### GRADING



### Grading Category

### PENALTY



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

drug or substance listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose of trafficking,	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years	It is a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
drug or substance listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose other than trafficking,	2nd Degree Felony	3 - 5 years or more, depending on the circumstances or as per the provisions in sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	only cash to the value of twice the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of <b>twice</b> the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
Whereas the subject matter of the offence is a drug or substance listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony		
Whereas the subject matter of the offence is a drug or substance listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour		only cash to the value of the bond, or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.89 UNLICENSED POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES.

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she possesses or purchases controlled drugs or substances in Schedules I, II, III, IV or precursors or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II without a license issued by the Minister.



### GRADING



### Grading Category

### PENALTY



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

For drugs or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose of trafficking,	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	It is a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
Drugs or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose other than trafficking,	2nd Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	only cash to the value of twice the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
Drugs or substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV are to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony		
Drugs or substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV are to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 - 5 years or more, depending on the circumstances or as per PL sections	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.90 UNLICENSED CULTIVATION OR CULTURE, PRODUCTION OF PLANTS

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she plants, cultivates, or cultures or engages in the production of plants which are controlled drugs or substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, IV or a precursor or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II, without a license issued by the Minister.



### GRADING



### Grading Category

### PENALTY



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

For drugs and substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemicals listed in Table I and Table II, to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	It is a grave offence and shall not be bailable.
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as prescribed in Sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.	only cash to the value of twice the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony		
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 - 5 years or more, depending on the circumstances or as per PL sections	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.91. USE OF CONTROLLED DRUG OR SUBSTANCE

**Offence:** Except permitted or authorised by law, a person who consumes or uses a controlled drug or substance commits an offence.



### GRADING



### Grading Category



### PENALTY

### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

This is for drugs and substances listed in Schedule I or precursors or essential chemicals listed in Tables I and II.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	4 months - 1 year	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposited in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
If apprehended for the second time	2nd Degree Felony	1 - 5 years	
Drug drugs or substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV,	2nd Degree Misdemeanour	4 months	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
If apprehended for the second time.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 months - 1 year	

A court may order that such a user undergo rehabilitation, which may include education or community service, as an alternative to imprisonment.



## 14.92. PRESCRIPTION ABUSE

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he or she supplies, administers, or dispenses a controlled drug or substances listed in Schedules I, II, III, and IV or a precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I or Table II for use by individuals without a prescription, or falsified prescription, or sound medical practice.



### GRADING



### Grading Category



### Sanction/ Sentence



### Bail

For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	3 - 5 years or more	
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 months - 1 year	only cash to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purposes of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony	3 - 5 years	
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 months - 1 year	only cash to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.93. ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she purposely or knowingly traffics controlled drugs or substances as per Schedule I, II, III, IV or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II without a license from the Minister.

### PENALTY



#### GRADING



#### Grading Category



#### Sanction/ Sentence



#### Bail

Drugs and substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemicals listed in Tables I and II.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years	It shall be a grave offence, and it shall not be bailable.
	If deemed 2nd Degree Felony		only cash to the value of twice the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV.	2nd Degree Felony	3 - 5 months	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposit in the. Bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.94 UNLAWFUL MAINTENANCE OF PLACE FOR DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she knowingly opens or maintains any place for the purpose of unlicensed selling, administering, delivering, storing, or distributing controlled drugs or substances or controlled precursors and essential chemicals.



### GRADING



### Grading Category



### PENALTY

### Sanction/Sentence



### Bail

For drugs or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years as per PL sections	It shall be a grave offence and it shall not be bailable.
For drugs or substances listed in Schedule I, or precursor or essential chemical listed in Table I and Table II to be used for purposes other than trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony		only cash to the value of twice the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of twice the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
All property, real and/or personal, used in the commission of the offence shall escheat to the public.			
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose of trafficking.	2nd Degree Felony		
For drugs and substances listed in Schedule II, III, and IV to be used for the purpose other than trafficking.	1st Degree Misdemeanour	3 - 5 years or more, or as per PL sections	only cash to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.

## 14.95. CONCEALING PROPERTY DERIVED FROM DRUG OFFENCE.

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she, knowing that the property is directly or indirectly derived from a drug offence, conceals property, transfers property to someone else, or converts property, or removes a property from one location to another with the purpose of evading or assisting someone else to evade prosecution

### PENALTY



#### GRADING



#### Grading Category



#### Sanction/Sentence



#### Bail

For a drug offence, imposition or enforcement of a penalty for a drug offence, or the making or enforcement of an order for the confiscation or forfeiture of property or any part thereof, except such property is subject to the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financial Law (AMLTFI).	1st Degree Felony	10 - 20 years or as per PL sections	It shall be a grave offence, and it shall not be bailable.
	If deemed 2nd Degree Felony		only cash to the value of the bond or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
All properties, real and/or personal, used for the commission of the Offence shall be escheated to the Republic.			

## 14.96. RECEIVING PROPERTY DERIVED FROM DRUG OFFENCE

**Offence:** A person commits an offence if he/she receives property, except subject to the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financial Law, knowing that the property is derived from a drug offence committed by someone else without any legal entitlement to such property.

Receiving property knowing that the property is derived from a drug offence.	2nd Degree Felony	3 - 5 years or more or as per PL sections	only cash to the value of the bond; or cash deposit in the bank to the value of the bond as evidenced by a bank certificate.
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## 14.97. CONFISCATION

Proceeds derived from offences under this subchapter, or property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds on order of the court, shall be confiscated and, upon final determination of the matter, shall be forfeited. Controlled drugs or substances, equipment or other instrumentalities used in or intended for use in any manner in the commission of offences under this subchapter shall be subject to, with respect to the penalties imposed, confiscation and forfeiture in favour of the Government of Liberia, pursuant to the Civil Procedure Law, including, but not limited to, money and other assets obtained thereby, and the instrument or tools with which the particular unlawful act was committed, unless they are the property of a third person not liable for the unlawful act.

## 14.98. DISTRIBUTION/USE OF PROCEEDS CONFISCATED AND/OR FORFEITED

All proceeds derived from offences under this subchapter or property, the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds, when confiscated and/or forfeited, shall be distributed as follows:

**25% - to drug and controlled substance abuse rehabilitation programmes.**

**25% - to drug and controlled substance law enforcement programmes.**

**50% - to the general revenue of the Liberian Government.**

The proceeds allocated for drug and controlled substance abuse rehabilitation programmes and for drug and controlled substance abuse law enforcement programmes shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, any budgetary appropriation, which shall be made in the National Budget for these programmes.

## 14.99. AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

If a person is convicted of an offence under this subchapter, the court, imposing sentence, shall consider factual circumstances which make the commission of the offence serious, such as:

- a. The involvement in the offence of an organised criminal group to which the defendant belongs.
- b. The involvement of the defendant in other international organised criminal activities.
- c. The involvement of the defendant in other illegal activities facilitated by the commission of the offence.

**d.** The use of violence or arms by the defendant.

**e.** The fact that the defendant holds a public office, and the offence is connected with the office in question.

**f.** The fact that the offence is committed in a penal institution, or in an educational institution or social service institution or in their immediate vicinity or other places to which school children resort for education, sports, or social activities.

**g.** Prior conviction for a similar offence, whether committed abroad or in Liberia.

**h.** If the court determines that any aggravating circumstance justifies a longer sentence, the court may add up to 22 further years to the sentence, with the provisions of sections 50.5 and 50.6 of the Penal Law of Liberia.

### **14.100. ADDITIONAL PENALTY/SANCTION FOR NON-LIBERIANS**

In addition to any penalty and/or sanction provided by this subchapter, a non-Liberian who is convicted of the commission of any crimes provided in this subchapter, upon serving his/her sentence and/or sanction, shall be immediately deported from Liberia.

### **14.101 DRUG CLEARANCE**

Upon the coming into force of this revised Act, it shall be required that every applicant desiring to enrol, employed or admitted into a public institution shall be required to submit to obtain clearance before admission, employment or enrolment at such public institutions. It shall also be required of private institutions to institute such measures to give effect to this section. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be a valid reason for the denial of your application, admission and employment.

### **14.102 1961 UNITED NATIONS SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AS AMENDED BY THE 1972 PROTOCOL**

The [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961](#) (Single Convention, 1961 Convention, or C61) is a United Nations treaty that controls activities (cultivation, production, supply, trade, transport) of specific narcotic drugs and lays down a system of regulations (licenses, measures for treatment, research, etc.)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention\\_1961\\_en.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1961_en.pdf)

## 14.103 – DECLARATION

Inclusion in this subchapter of any international convention on drugs and controlled substances to which Liberia is a party or shall hereafter become a party.

Any international convention on drugs and controlled substances to which Liberia is a party shall hereafter become a party is incorporated in this subchapter by reference and shall form a cogent part hereof.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY  
NOTWITHSTANDING.

**Access the list of Drugs and Substances included in Schedule I to V here:**

**SCAN ME**



or visit <https://bit.ly/1961conven>

## MANDATE OF THE LDEA

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), as enshrined in the October 2014 Amended Act, was established as a Semi-autonomous agency under the supervisory authority of the Ministry of Justice to carry out the provision of Chapter 22 of the Executive Law of Liberia, Sub-chapter (F). The LDEA which serves as the implementing arm of the Board, shall be responsible for the efficient and effective law enforcement of all the provisions on any controlled drugs and substances and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals as provided for under the Act establishing the LDEA, the Penal Law and any other relevant laws of the Republic of Liberia.

**Access the Liberia National Drug Master Plan here:**

**SCAN ME**



or visit <https://bit.ly/lib22masterplan>

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**About Frontline AIDS**

Frontline AIDS is a global partnership of nationally based governmental and non-governmental organisations which support community organisations that promote HIV/AIDS issues in developing countries. It was founded in 1993 as the International HIV/AIDS Alliance to support the work of existing community-led organisations responding to HIV and AIDS. Frontline AIDS has a rich history of working with partners to reach marginalised communities. Today, its global partnership works in more than 100 countries to support local, national, and global community action on HIV, health, and human rights.

[www.frontlineaids.org](http://www.frontlineaids.org)

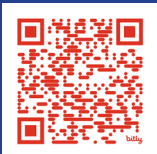
**About WADPN**

The West Africa Drug Policy Network (WADPN) was established by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) in 2015 under the auspices of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) to advocate and promote the well-being of people who use drugs across the West Africa region. The organisation was officially registered in December 2018. WADPN was formed following the conclusions of the West Africa Commission on Drugs, convened by Kofi Annan, which emphasized that drug use should be regarded primarily as a public health problem, requiring help rather than punishment. WADPN has played a pivotal role in advocating for the reformation and passage of drug laws within and beyond.

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