

**SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTIVE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO
COMBAT COUNTERFEIT MEDICATION**

WHEREAS, counterfeit prescription medication is dangerous to the health of anyone taking such fake medication; and,

WHEREAS, the sale of counterfeit medication via the Internet is a prevalent problem due to a variety factors, including the increasing cost of prescription medication and the movement of the market to online sales; and,

WHEREAS, the ripple effects of people taking fake medication negatively affects the public health when people do not get the medication that is medically indicated, which results in greater human suffering as well as increased medical treatment due to adverse reactions and ineffective outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State, as Trademark Registrar for the State of North Carolina with law enforcement authority to arrest and prosecute those selling counterfeit medication and other goods, is committed to increasing the public awareness of the dangers of buying counterfeit prescription medication.

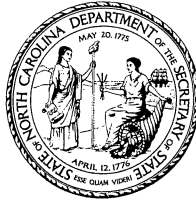
NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Secretary of State by the Laws and Constitution of the State of North Carolina, and pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 147-16.2, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Establishment and Composition.

The Secretary of State's Advisory Council to Combat Counterfeit Medication is hereby established. The Council shall be composed of up to twenty-five members, who shall have knowledge of and interest in the subject of counterfeit medication, retail and health-related consumer behavior, and online sales, and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall serve as Chair of the Council and the Council may elect a vice-chair.

Section 2. Purposes and Duties

The purposes of the Council are to provide the Secretary of State recommendations on effective ways to raise public awareness on the dangers of buying counterfeit prescription medication.



The Council shall, in performance of its duties:

- (1) Gather and study such data and information as may be necessary and useful for accomplishing the purposes of this Council.
- (2) Recommend methods to support efforts to raise awareness on the danger of counterfeit medication;
- (3) Recommend policy and statutory changes to support efforts to reduce or mitigate the dangers of counterfeit drugs.

Section 3. Meetings.


The Council shall meet at anytime by call of the Chair.

Section 4. Support.

Administrative and other support for the Council shall be provided by the Department of the Secretary of State. The Budget Officer for the Department of the Secretary of State is hereby directed to take all appropriate steps to provide reimbursement to Council members for expenses related to their duties to the extent allowed by law.

This Directive shall be effective immediately.

Done in the Capital City of Raleigh, North Carolina, this the 23rd day of January, 2017.


Elaine F. Marshall
North Carolina Secretary of State