

and the industry as a whole. As consumers, most of the FDA employees deserve our thanks for helping secure our availability of needed pharmaceutical drugs. We all hope this performance continues with the rollout of the Drug Quality and Safety Act.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

The DEA is not expressly responsible for the new Drug Quality and Safety Act. It is, however, involved with the safety and security of our controlled substance pharmaceutical drugs. The Title II track and trace regulations, as developed by the FDA, will affect the DEA's operations. In my opinion, they are one of my most admired agencies of the U.S. federal government. Let's take a look at the history of the DEA, its responsibilities and offices/sections, and how Title II will impact its activities.

History: Controlled Substances Act and the DEA

The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) was passed as part of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 and signed into law by President Richard Nixon. The CSA is the federal U.S. drug policy under which the manufacture, importation, possession, use, and distribution of certain substances are regulated. The legislation created five schedules (classifications), with varying qualifications for a substance to be included in each. The DEA currently works with the FDA to determine which substances are placed in the five schedules.¹⁵

The DEA was created by President Richard Nixon through an executive order in July 1973 in order to establish a single unified command to combat "an all-out global war on the drug menace." At its outset, the DEA had 1,470 special agents and a budget of less than \$75 million. Today, the DEA has approximately 5,000 special agents and a budget of \$2.02 billion.¹⁶

In my opinion, the number of the DEA special agents is paltry compared to the responsibilities of the agency and the geographic coverage. The DEA has 5,000 special agents to cover 50 states (and international investigations and activities) to combat drug smuggling and use of controlled substances. This means, all things being equal and leaving out its international work, that the DEA has 100 special agents to cover each state. It does share jurisdiction domestically with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE),