

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement for HB 253

“An Act classifying certain synthetic cathinones as schedule IIA controlled substances; and providing for an effective date.”

HB 253 would classify certain synthetic cathinones, commonly known as synthetic cocaine and marketed as ‘bath salts,’ as a schedule IIA controlled substance.

Marketed as bath salts or plant food with names like ‘Meow-Meow,’ ‘Vanilla Sky,’ ‘Ivory Snow,’ and ‘Bliss,’ synthetic cathinones are inexpensive, accessible, and undetectable in most drug tests. Many users of this drug use them in combination with or as a legal alternative to cocaine, ecstasy or methamphetamines.

Drug effects include impaired perception, reduced motor control, disorientation, extreme paranoia and violent episodes. Synthetic cathinones are abused mainly by snorting and oral ingestion. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Military, and the Municipality of Anchorage have all taken action to control or prohibit use of this drug.

According to the National Council of State Legislatures, as of October 24, 2011 there are 33 states that have adopted laws or have departmental rules banning chemical compounds associated with ‘bath salts.’ Seven states have legislation pending.

Should HB 253 pass, it would be unlawful throughout the State of Alaska to sell, use, purchase, possess, manufacture, transport or deliver synthetic cathinones, the chemical compounds which are being marketed as ‘bath salts’ and synthetic cocaine.

DISTRICT 16

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