

Alaska State Legislature



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Session:
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Senator Kevin Meyer
Senate District O

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SB 17

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

SB 17 would classify certain synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as K2 or Spice as a schedule IIA controlled substance.

This new drug is dangerous, cheap and legally available. Sold in smoke shops and gas stations as incense, it is marketed to people who are interested in herbal alternatives to cannabis. Synthetic cannabinoids are inexpensive, accessible and undetectable in drug tests. Here in Alaska, the drug enjoys some popularity amongst North Slope workers, U.S. Military members and students. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Municipality of Anchorage and the U.S. Military have all taken action to control and prohibit use of this drug.

Synthetic cannabinoid is abused mainly by smoking or prepared as drink. Users experience severe adverse reactions including hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, agitation, and panic attacks. The chemical composition of synthetic cannabinoids is considerably more potent to tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana).

11 states have passed legislation classifying synthetic marijuana as a controlled substance. 21 states, including Alaska, have introduced similar legislation. Should SB 17 pass, it will be unlawful to sell, use, purchase, possess, manufacture, transport or deliver synthetic cannabinoids.