

Alaska Legislature

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Sponsor Statement-House Bill 362

Synthetic drugs are having an ever deepening impact on our communities. Several attempts have been made by the Legislature to curb the sale of these illicit substances by classifying certain known chemical compounds as controlled substances. Unfortunately, manufacturers of these drugs have made slight changes to the chemical compounds, effectively evading law enforcement.

House Bill 362 is aimed at an effective solution to this problem by targeting not the chemical compound of the drug, but rather its packaging. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, labels on these drug products often claim that they contain "natural" psycho-active material taken from a variety of plants. Having these items labelled as "incense" and "potpourri," combined with their accessibility as gas stations and tobacco shops, as well as the misperception that these products are "natural" and therefore harmless, has likely contributed to their growing use and popularity. House Bill 362 will make it illegal to sell these designer drugs that are packaged as "spice," "potpourri," or a variety of other misleading labels. House Bill 362 would also make it illegal to offer, display, market, or advertise for the purpose of selling these illicit items.

With the passage of HB 36, the sale and distribution of these drugs will now be considerably more difficult, if not impossible.

I respectfully request your support.

