

# Alaska Legislature

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*Version 30-LS0260\A*

### **Sponsor Statement – HB 24**

**“An Act classifying U-47700 as a schedule 1A controlled substance; and providing for an effective date”**

U-47700, also known by the street name “Pink” is a synthetic opioid responsible for the overdose deaths of at least 46 people nationwide since 2015. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports the drug is linked to three deaths here in Alaska. U-47700 can come in either powder form or tablets and is abused in the same manner as heroin and prescription opioids.

The US Drug Enforcement Division decided late last year that the substance was so dangerous it posed an immediate threat to public safety and classified U-47700 as a schedule 1 substance, a category of drugs that have no accepted medical use and pose an extremely high risk of abuse. Examples of other schedule 1 drugs include heroin and LSD. The DEA believes the drug is manufactured in illegal laboratories overseas, meaning its purity and quality are unknown and extremely dangerous to anyone that decides to use it. Samples of U-47700 have been found to be up to 800 percent more potent than heroin.

House Bill 24 lists U-47700 as a schedule 1 controlled substance in Alaska statutes (AS 11.71.140(c)) This will be an important tool for Alaska law enforcement officers and prosecutors to arrest and prosecute individuals using or distributing this dangerous drug and protect Alaskans from the latest form of highly addictive and potentially fatal synthetic heroin.

I respectfully ask all legislators to support the passage of this legislation as soon as possible.

*Prepared by Jeff Turner on Thursday, January 19, 2017*