

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SB 20

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

SB 20 would classify U-47700, a synthetic opioid commonly known as pink or U4, a schedule IA controlled substance.

U-47700 was a research chemical created and patented in the United States in the 1970's. It was never tested on humans and was not manufactured for public consumption. Drug labs in China are now producing this drug and selling it online where people purchase this inexpensive, lethal alternative to purchasing opioid drugs on the street.

This synthetic opioid is eight times more potent than morphine and according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) it has been associated with at least 46 deaths in 2015 and 2016. The State of Alaska Epidemiology Bulletin has attributed U-47700 to three drug overdose deaths in Alaska.

U-47700 is abused many ways. Similar to oxycodone or heroin, some users experience a feeling of euphoric relaxation along with tolerance and dependence on the drug. Users may also experience severe adverse reactions such as nerve damage, seizures and death.

Several states have already banned this drug and last November the DEA issued a final order to temporarily schedule U-47700 as a schedule I controlled substance. Should SB 20 pass, it will be unlawful to sell, use, purchase, possess, manufacture, transport or deliver this synthetic opioid in the State of Alaska.