

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE KYLE JOHANSEN
MAJORITY LEADER

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 327 – Relating to controlled substances and the sale of products containing dextromethorphan

HB 327 updates and strengthens the state's anti-drug laws. Specifically, this legislation does three things: it adds salvia divinorum to the list of schedule IIA drugs, moves buprenorphine from schedule VA up to Schedule IIIA, and limits the purchase of products that contain dextromethorphan (DXM) to Alaskans over the age of 18.

Salvia divinorum is a powerful hallucinogenic similar to mescaline and peyote. It is a perennial herb found in the mountainous regions of Mexico where it has a history of use as a vision inducing substance by the local Mazatec Indians. It is banned in several countries and an ever-growing number of states.

Buprenorphine is a synthetic opiate used in a similar manner to methadone as a treatment to opiate dependency. And, like methadone, it's abused as a recreational drug and leads to dependence.

DXM is a common ingredient in over-the-counter cough suppressants. DXM is safe when taken in the recommended doses. However, when it is taken in large doses it has an intoxicating affect. Over-the-counter products that contain DXM often also contain other ingredients such as acetaminophen and chlorpheniramine. Large doses of acetaminophen can cause liver damage and large doses of chlorpheniramine can cause increased heart rate and seizures.

All three proposed changes in statute would make these drugs either harder for our children and loved ones to obtain or increase the penalties for their use, creating deterrents that will strengthen our drug laws.

I urge your support.

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