

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 most 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 or prohibit use of this drug.

Synthetic cannabinoids are abused mainly by smoking organic material which is sprayed with the drug, or prepared in a drink. Users experience severe adverse reactions including dangerously high blood pressure, hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, agitation, delusions, loss of consciousness, and panic attacks. The chemical composition of synthetic cannabinoids is considerably more potent and intense than tetrahydrocannabinol (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.