



SENATOR DENNIS EGAN

Senate Bill 66 – Imitation Controlled Substances Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 66 makes it easier for law enforcement to crack down on drug dealers by making illegal any substance represented as a controlled substance. Drug dealers often rip off customers by selling them salt or sheet rock dust as meth, for example. When a drug dealer rips off a law enforcement officer during a sting operation, the officer can't make a charge because the substance doesn't contain a specific ingredient on the list of imitation controlled substances in statute.

The current definition of imitation controlled substances in AS 11.73.099 (3) lists chemicals a substance must contain in order to be illegal. Senate Bill 66 changes the definition of an imitation controlled substance to more generally make illegal any substance made to look like an already illegal drug. By omitting specific chemicals from the definition, the change makes illegal a substance "that is not a controlled substance and that, by dosage unit appearance (including color, shape, size, and markings) and by representations, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is a controlled substance."

Senate Bill 66 will change our imitation controlled substance law to enable law enforcement officers to more effectively charge drug dealers in the State of Alaska.

ALASKA SENATE

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