

Alaska State Legislature



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Senator Kevin Meyer Senate District L

SPONSOR STATEMENT SENATE BILL 173

SB 173 intends to help solve the problem of the ever changing chemical make-up of synthetic drugs by targeting the packaging of the product, and is aimed not at what the illicit drug is, but what it *isn't*. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, labels on these products often claim that they contain "natural" psycho-active material taken from a variety of plants. Sold at smoke shops, and convenience stores as "incense" or "potpourri," easy access and the misperception that these products are "natural" and therefore harmless, have likely contributed to their popularity. SB 173 will make it illegal to sell these designer drugs that are packaged as "spice," "potpourri," or a variety of other misleading labels.

Senate Bill 173 would prohibit the offer, display, marketing, advertising for sale, or sale of illicit synthetic drugs. The Legislature has made several attempts to prohibit the use of synthetic illicit drugs by classifying certain known chemical compounds as controlled substances. Unfortunately, what we're seeing as a result of this and similar efforts by the federal government, is that manufacturers simply change the chemical compound slightly, thus evading law enforcement efforts.

With the passage of SB 173, it will be considerably more difficult, if not impossible, for the sale or distribution of these synthetic illicit drugs state-wide.

I encourage your support on SB 173.