

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2009-238

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC
4 HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE USE OF THE
5 SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA DRUGS COMMONLY CALLED K2 AND SALVIA ON THE
6 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUNG ARKANSANS.
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8 WHEREAS, K2 is a legal herbal smoking blend made in China and Korea of
9 herbs and spices and sprayed with synthetic cannabinoids, readily available
10 in most of the United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, K2 mimics the effects of cannabis and is finding increasing
13 use as a mind-altering substance that does not register positive on tests for
14 illegal substances; and
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16 WHEREAS, K2 is a chemical added to herbal materials intended to be used
17 as potpourri or incense and comes in many varieties with names such as
18 Blonde, Summit, Pink, Blue, Standard, and Citron and is offered for sale over
19 the counter in numerous quick-stop stores in the United States;
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21 WHEREAS, although no official studies have been conducted on the
22 effects of K2 on humans, emergency room physicians report negative effects
23 that are not noted in marijuana users, such as increased agitation and
24 vomiting and excessively high heart rates; and
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26 WHEREAS, strains of K2 contain different but similar ingredients,
27 according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. One ingredient, HU-210, is
28 structurally similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. HU-210 is,
29 however, 100 to 800 times more potent than THC, according to the DEA; and
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31 WHEREAS, K2 is presently legal, and, therefore, there is no age limit
32 on purchasing the material that provides the drug; and
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34 WHEREAS, Kansas has prohibited the use of K2 by adding K2 to its list
35 of Schedule 1 controlled substances and Missouri and Georgia are presently
36 considering similar legislation; and

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WHEREAS, Salvia divinorum (salvia) is an intense, short-acting hallucinogenic plant with unknown long term affects that is presently gaining popularity among adolescents in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Salvia is a mind-altering substance that does not register positive on tests for illegal substances and is available for purchase over the Internet without any limit on age; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has added salvia divinorum as a Schedule 1 controlled substance; and

WHEREAS, the nature and availability of K2 and Salvia pose potentially catastrophic threats the health and safety of young Arkansans,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

THAT the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the effects of the use of the synthetic marijuana drugs commonly called K2 and Salvia on the health and safety of young Arkansans.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Jon Woods
District 93

Senator David Johnson
District 32

Representative Steven Breedlove
District 67

Representative Jim House
District 89

Filed Date: 04/28/2010 By: MGF/lms