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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

CSHB 3, Drugs: Possession of Precursor Chemicals

Methamphetamine is an addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system. Methamphetamine is commonly known as “crank,” “speed,” and “ice.” The drug is easily made in laboratories with relatively inexpensive, over-the-counter ingredients. Meth labs are extremely dangerous, even if they are not producing as the combinations of the chemicals that are used in the production process are highly explosive. These factors make methamphetamine a dangerous drug with great potential for widespread abuse.

The CSHB 3 will address the problem of increasing production and use of methamphetamines in Alaska, and the danger posed by these illicit laboratories. This is accomplished by raising the penalties for the manufacture of methamphetamines and their immediate precursors, and the possession of listed chemicals with the intent to manufacture these drugs. Under the CSHB 3, the manufacture of methamphetamines and their immediate precursors will be a class A felony, punishable as provided in AS 12.55.125. Since this offense will be a class A felony, someone causing the death of a person while committing this crime will be subject to prosecuting for felony murder under AS 11.41.110. An attempt to manufacture methamphetamine or its immediate precursors will be punishable as a class B felony under as 11.31.100.

CSHB 3 also identifies chemicals that are legal to possess but are used for the manufacture of controlled substances. Possession of these chemicals with the intent to manufacture methamphetamines or their immediate precursors is made a class A felony. Since the manufacture of methamphetamines or their immediate precursors is being elevated to a class A felony, it automatically becomes a ground for eviction by a land lord under the definition of illegal activity involving a controlled substance under AS 34.03.360.

Methamphetamine labs are very dangerous, even if they are not producing drugs. By increasing the penalties for methamphetamine offenses, the CSHB 3 will discourage people from producing methamphetamine thereby protecting the lives and property of people who may be living in an area where methamphetamine is being produced.