

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR GRETCHEN GUESS

Sponsor Statement **SB 9**

“ An Act relating to the evaluation and cleanup of sites where certain controlled substances may have been manufactured or stored.”

Purpose

Currently Alaska has no standards or requirements for the clean up of illegal drug labs. SB 9 sets standards for clean up of illegal drug manufacturing sites to ensure the safety of future residents.

Background

Illegal drug manufacturing labs, such as “meth labs,” are rising in Alaska with seizures doubling in number from 2000 to 2001. Often these labs are in homes, apartments, and hotels where chemical contamination can pose a serious health hazard to future residents.

Currently Alaska has no standards or requirements for the clean up of illegal drug labs. Once law enforcement discovers an illegal lab it falls to the property owner to properly clean up the hazardous material. If this clean up is not done properly it could pose a serious health risk to future occupants of the property, especially children.

Solution

- SB 9 creates a simple system whereby law enforcement, once they have discovered a lab, will notify the property owner and provide them with materials developed by the DEC. These materials will outline testing procedures and guideline limits for a number of dangerous chemicals that commonly contaminate illegal drug lab sites. In order to demonstrate the property is fit for habitation, the owner must provide test results showing the levels of contamination are below DEC set limits.
- SB 9 also offers safeguards for future purchasers and occupants of the property. Under this bill, the property owner may not allow the reoccupation or rental of the property until it has been tested and shown to be below DEC set limits. SB 9 also requires full disclosure to any purchaser of the property if it was a former illegal lab site and has not been properly cleaned.
- SB 9 requires full disclosure to any purchaser of the property if it was an illegal drug manufacturing site and has not been properly cleaned.