

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

*Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner*

*Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon
Chief of Staff*

March 14, 2011

Rep. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman
Sen. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 1098 AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA AND SALVIA DIVINORUM

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

Law enforcement officials in across the country are reporting increasing use of synthetic cannabinoid products by teens and young adults. These products are sold in convenience stores, gas stations, head shops, and via the Internet; this easy access has likely contributed to the popularity of the products.

The packaging is deliberately mislabeled to hide the actual intent and use of the product.

Synthetic cannabinoid products are produced internationally, domestically, and in some cases by individuals. There are no safety controls or oversight in place. Because the chemical composition of the various products sold is inconsistent, it is likely that some varieties also contain substances with dramatically different effects than those expected by the user. This could lead to an unsafe condition for the user.

There should be particular concern about the use of these products by children and young adults.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colonel Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER