

Synthetic Marijuana Banned

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy voted to temporarily classify synthetic cannabinoids, which are used to treat products such as K2 and Spice as a Schedule 1 controlled substance. Classifying the cannabinoids used to treat products such as K2 and Spice as Schedule I controlled substances means they have been determined to have a high potential for abuse and have no accepted medical use. The action does not ban the products by name, but rather bans the synthetic cannabinoids.

This synthetic marijuana is a combination of various compounds and serves the purpose of stimulating the same areas of the brain as marijuana. However, unlike marijuana, some effects of the synthetic marijuana include anxiety, panic attacks, hallucinations, and seizures.

This substance has already played a role in the death of one Iowa teen, and it is expected that legislation will be introduced in 2011 to ban the substance permanently or make it a controlled substance.