



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator Larry Farnese

1st Senatorial District

MEMO

Date: *February 15, 2011*

To: *All Senators*

From: *Senator Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.*

Subject: *Co-sponsorship: "Bath Salts" Ban*

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would ban what is commonly known as "bath salts." The legislation would add the following chemical compounds to Schedule I of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act: 3,4 - Methylenedioxyamphetaminone (Mephedrone), 3,4 - Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV), 4 - Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone), 3 - Methoxymethcathinone, 3 - Fluoromethcathinone, and 4 - Fluoromethcathinone.

Bath salt is a white, powdery substance made up of derivatives of the aforementioned chemicals. The form of speed that is produced by mixing the chemicals induces pharmacological effects similar to those obtained through cocaine use. Bath salt has been known to cause dangerous side effects, anywhere from racing hearts and paranoia to severe hallucinations. At least one suicide has been reported due to the use of this drug, while others have reportedly committed dangerous self-mutilations and attempted violent acts against others while under its influence.

Bath salts are available over-the-counter from convenience stores, head shops and the Internet. Its use is on the rise across the country. In response to an influx of calls to their Poison Control office regarding the ingestion of this substance, in January the state of Louisiana added the chemical mixture to the Louisiana Controlled Dangerous Substance Act by

emergency rule. Florida has also instituted an emergency rule banning the chemicals found in bath salts. Other states are currently looking to ban the substance as well, as are legislators on the federal level.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Brandie Pifer at 717-787-5662 or bpifer@pasenate.com. If you have any questions regarding the bill, please contact Sally Keaveney at skeaveney@pasenate.com.