

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1014

As Reported by House Committee On:
Business & Financial Services

Title: An act relating to antifreeze products.

Brief Description: Concerning antifreeze products.

Sponsors: Representative Appleton.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Business & Financial Services: 1/14/15, 1/16/15 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the exempt status of wholesale containers of 55 gallons or more of engine coolant or antifreeze regarding the required use of a bittering agent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Kirby, Chair; Ryu, Vice Chair; Vick, Ranking Minority Member; Blake, G. Hunt, Kochmar, McCabe, Santos and Stanford.

Staff: Linda Merelle (786-7092).

Background:

Engine coolant and antifreeze manufactured or distributed in Washington that contains more than 10 percent ethylene glycol must contain Denatonium Benzoate, a bittering agent, to render it unpalatable to humans and animals. Denatonium Benzoate may also be known under the trade names of Bitrex or Aversion. The minimum concentration required is 30 parts per million and the maximum, 50 parts per million. Manufacturers, packagers, distributors, recyclers, and sellers of engine coolant or antifreeze must comply. Wholesale containers of 55 gallons or more of engine coolant or antifreeze are exempt from this statutory requirement.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Manufacturers, packagers, distributors, recyclers, and sellers are not liable for injury caused by inclusion of the bittering agent, and manufacturers subject to the bittering agent requirement must maintain a record of the trade name, scientific name, and active ingredients of any agent used, and they must make this information available to the public upon request.

The Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures Program has authority to enforce these requirements. However, in the 2011-13 biennial operating budget, the funding for enforcement related to antifreeze requirements was eliminated.

Summary of Bill:

Wholesale containers of 55 gallons or more of engine coolant or antifreeze are no longer exempt from the requirement that they contain Denatonium Benzoate, a bittering agent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Several years ago at Hurricane Ridge, the park rangers were closing down the parking lots at 5 p.m. because deer would come into the parking lot and lick the antifreeze that was left behind by vehicles. Ethylene glycol is harmful, but it apparently tastes like sugar. The bittering agent would make it aversive to animals and children. This is a common sense bill and would help our kids, wild animals, and pets.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Appleton, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.