

# Antifreeze Safety Legislation Fact Sheet

## HB 219

Thousands of children and animals are poisoned every year from ingesting antifreeze. In fact, one survey of veterinarians reports that up to 90,000 animals are poisoned by antifreeze ingestion each year. A report from the Poison Control Center shows 6,000 children suffer this same fate. In Georgia alone over the past three years an average of 241 people are reported to Georgia Poison Center for antifreeze poisoning.

### Antifreeze is dangerous to Children and Animals:

If a child's toy rolls through antifreeze and a child places that toy in their mouth, they may ingest enough antifreeze to prove lethal. Dogs have been known to chew through containers to get into the toxin. Children and pets also come into contact with antifreeze through improperly sealed, stored or discarded containers and through spills or leaks in driveways or roadways. The sweet smell and taste attracts children and animals. Ingesting less than a teaspoon can be fatal to children and animals. Antifreeze toxicity develops within 45 minutes but by that time irreversible brain and kidney damage has occurred. Georgia made national news in 2001 when Lynn Turner poisoned her husband then poisoned her boyfriend a couple of years later.

### What would HB 219 do?

HB 219 would mandate that antifreeze sold in Georgia to contain denatonium benzoate. DB is the most bitter substance known. DB does not effect the engine or the effectiveness of antifreeze. One and one half ounces of denatonium benzoate is used to make one ton of ethylene glycol unpalatable. /Although DB does not have an odor, it is extremely effective in preventing ingestion of toxins.

### How is DB currently used?

Denatonium benzoate is used in household cleaners, pesticides, varnishes, nail polish and in eight states as a bittering agent for antifreeze. DB is also used as a thumb sucking or nail biting deterrent for children.

### Who supports HB 219?

The Humane Society of the United States, Southern Hope Rescue, American Humane Association, Art for Paws, Georgia Legal Professionals for Animals, and Consumer Specialty Products Association support Georgia HB 219. Eight states have enacted antifreeze safety laws requiring DB to be added to antifreeze.



***Please Support***

***HB 219***

