

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Stephen Landfear
(773) 296-4141

Feigenholtz Legislation to Protect Animals and Children from Accidental Antifreeze Poisoning Sent to Governor

CHICAGO – Continuing her efforts to protect children and animals, legislation sponsored by state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) requiring coolant and antifreeze manufacturers to add a bittering agent to their products to deter ingestion and accidental poisoning passed the Illinois Senate and now heads to the governor’s desk for his approval.

“Numerable tragedies can be prevented if the governor signs this important legislation,” Feigenholtz said. “We must continue working to stop the many needless deaths that occur each year due to accidental poisonings. This legislation is a strong step toward protecting our children and pets and I hope the governor acts quickly to sign it into law.”

House Bill 4722 requires coolant and antifreeze manufactured after January 1, 2011 and sold in Illinois to contain a bittering agent to dissuade children and animals from ingesting antifreeze. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the main ingredient of antifreeze brands, ethylene glycol, has a sweet smell and taste which is attractive to children and pets and is highly toxic. Drinking ethylene glycol results result in depression followed by heart problems, difficulty breathing difficulty, kidney failure, brain damage and even death.

The proposed legislation is a joint agreement between the Humane Society of the United States and the Consumer Specialty Products Association to strengthen and build upon a previous House Joint Resolution which urged the President and Congress to enact legislation requiring antifreeze additives.

“An estimated 1,400 children and 10,000 animals become sick or die from ingesting antifreeze each year and it is something that can be prevented,” Feigenholtz said. “By adding a bittering agent to antifreeze we can reduce avoidable tragedies, eliminate many accidental poisonings and save money on the cost of medical care.”

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