

HOUSE No. 4285

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, Nos. 398, 399 and 400, a Bill to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent so as to render it unpalatable. (House, No. 4285).

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE ENGINE COOLANT AND ANTIFREEZE TO CONTAIN
A BITTERING AGENT SO AS TO RENDER IT UNPALATABLE. .**

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
| Theodore C. Speliotis | 13th Essex |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

An Act to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent so as to render it unpalatable. .

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 94 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is

2 hereby amended by inserting after section 303M the following new section:-

3 Section 303N. Notwithstanding any General or special law, or any rule or regulation to the contrary,
4 except as may be otherwise provided in this section, engine coolant or antifreeze containing more than 10
5 percent ethylene glycol that is manufactured after January 1, 2011 may not be sold in the Commonwealth
6 unless said engine coolant and antifreeze shall include denatonium benzoate at a minimum of 30 parts per
7 million and a maximum of 50 parts per million as a bittering agent within such product so as to render it
8 unpalatable.

9 Notwithstanding any General or special law, or any rule or regulation to the contrary, any manufacturer of
10 any product for sale in the Commonwealth subject to this section shall maintain a record of the trade
11 name, scientific name, and active ingredients of any bittering agent used pursuant to this section, and such
12 information shall be available to the public upon request.

13 Notwithstanding any General or special law, or any rule or regulation to the contrary, a manufacturer,
14 processor, distributor, recycler or seller of an engine coolant or antifreeze that is required to contain an
15 aversive agent, as described in the first paragraph of this section, shall not be liable for any personal
16 injury or death incurred by any resident of the Commonwealth, or to any property damage, or damage to
17 the environment (including natural resources), or economic loss that results from the inclusion of
18 denatonium benzoate in any engine coolant or antifreeze, provided that the inclusion of denatonium
19 benzoate is present in concentrations described and mandated by paragraph one of this section. The
20 limitation on liability, as provided in the first sentence of this paragraph, shall not apply to a particular
21 liability to the extent that the cause of such liability is found to be unrelated to the inclusion of
22 denatonium benzoate in any engine coolant or antifreeze.

23 Notwithstanding any General or special law, or any rule or regulation to the contrary, no city or town, nor
24 any subdivision thereof, shall establish nor continue in effect any local ordinance or policy concerning
25 any retail containers of engine coolant or antifreeze sold in said city or town, which in any manner shall
26 limit or otherwise prohibit the inclusion of a bittering agent in said engine coolant or antifreeze that is in
27 any way different from, or in addition to, the provisions of this section.

28 The provisions of this section shall not prevent the sale of any motor vehicle in the
29 Commonwealth where any engine coolant or antifreeze may be found in the radiator of said
30 motor vehicle that does not meet the provisions of paragraph one of this section. The provisions
31 of this section shall also not apply to wholesale containers of engine coolant or antifreeze
32 containing 55 gallons or more of engine coolant or antifreeze.

33 Any person found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty set forth in
34 Section 303M of this chapter for each such violation.