

Representative Donald Friske

35th Assembly District

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Friske, Local Police Anti-Drug Proposal Becomes Law

Madison... Representative Donald Friske (Merrill) this week praised Governor Doyle for signing his anti-huffing bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 214, into law. AB 214 creates criminal penalties for using or distributing common hazardous household products knowing it will be misused to get “high.”

“Inhalant abuse is extremely dangerous,” Friske said. “Law enforcement has long needed a tool to tackle huffing problems, and with this law now they will.”

In 2003, Friske introduced the bill addressing huffing abuse of household products. The idea for this legislation came directly from Lieutenant Mike Hamann of the Merrill Police Department.

“This law treats huffing with the seriousness it deserves,” Hamann said. “In recent years, there has been a surge of teenagers overdosing by misusing household products, often resulting in serious illness or death. This law will help local law enforcement officials intervene and prevent future tragedies.”

AB 214 creates separate penalties for using, versus distribution or instruction, of household products for huffing inhalants. People convicted of huffing or possessing products with the intent to huff will be subject to as much as a \$10,000 fine and/or 9 months in county jail. People convicted of distributing products or instructing others how to huff will be subject to as much as a \$10,000 fine and/or three and a half years in prison.

“This law recognizes the importance of discouraging inhalant users from teaching other kids how to huff,” Friske said. “We as lawmakers, judges, teachers and parents need to work together to ensure our kids grow up without the danger created by drug use.”

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