
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5039

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDIUM AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to adopt regulations implementing California's medium- and heavy-duty motor vehicle standards in Connecticut. It requires her, if she adopts these regulations, to amend them whenever the California standards change. The Connecticut regulations may incorporate by reference the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) adopted regulations.

State law already requires DEEP to adopt regulations implementing California's emissions standards for light-duty motor vehicles (e.g., passenger cars, SUVs, pickup trucks) and keep them current with changes California makes. The regulations applied beginning with the 2008 model year.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, all new vehicles sold in the United States must comply with emission standards set by either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or California (42 U.S.C. § 7507).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

California Standards

CARB adopted (1) a heavy-duty omnibus rule, which creates emission standards for engine manufacturers, and (2) an advanced clean trucks rule, which requires truck manufacturers to deliver for sale a certain percentage of advanced technology vehicles (i.e., zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)).

Connecticut MOU Signatory

In July 2020, Connecticut signed onto a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 14 other states and the District of Columbia to work collaboratively to reduce emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. The signatories' goal is to have all medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales be ZEVs by 2050, with an interim goal of 30% ZEV sales by 2030.

Medium- and Heavy-duty Vehicles

The U.S. Department of Transportation categorizes vehicles based on gross vehicle weight ratings (GVWR). Medium-duty vehicles generally have a GVWR of between 10,000 and 26,000 pounds (e.g., box trucks, firetrucks). Heavy-duty vehicles have a GVWR of more than 26,000 pounds (e.g., city transit buses, cement mixers, refuse trucks, tractor trailers).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 10 (03/29/2022)