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H.144

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Briglin of Thetford, and
Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; biofuels; fuel tanks; Type II school buses; pilot
program

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend by two
years the duration of a pilot program authorizing under appropriate
circumstances the operation of a Type II school bus equipped with an auxiliary
fuel tank that enables the bus to run on biodiesel, waste vegetable oil, or
straight vegetable oil.

An act relating to extending the biobus pilot program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 12, Sec. 30a is amended to read:

Sec. 30a. SCHOOL BUS PILOT PROGRAM

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the term “person” shall have the
same meaning as in 1 V.S.A. § 128, and the term “Type II school bus” shall
have the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(34)(C).

1 (b) Pilot program. Upon application, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
2 shall approve up to three persons who satisfy the requirements of this section
3 to participate in a pilot program. Pilot program participants shall be authorized
4 to operate on Vermont highways Type II school buses registered in this State
5 that are retrofitted with an auxiliary fuel tank to enable the use of biodiesel,
6 waste vegetable oil, or straight vegetable oil, provided the school bus has
7 passed inspection in accordance with subdivision (c)(3) of this section and the
8 bus and its auxiliary tank comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
9 Standards applicable to Type II school buses. If more than three persons apply
10 to participate in the pilot program, the Commissioner shall give priority to
11 applicants who seek to install the auxiliary fuel tank in connection with a
12 student-led or student-generated school project.

13 (c) Documentation; requirements. The Commissioner may prescribe that
14 applicants furnish information necessary to implement the pilot program.
15 After an applicant furnishes such information and is approved, the
16 Commissioner shall provide the person with documentation of the person's
17 selection under the pilot program and the expiration date of the program. If the
18 approved person is a municipality or another legal entity, the Commissioner's
19 documentation shall list the specific individuals authorized to operate the
20 Type II school bus. The Commissioner's documentation shall:

21 (1) be carried in the school bus while it is operated on a highway;

1 (2) constitute and be recognized by enforcement officers in Vermont as
2 a waiver, until expiration of the pilot program, of those provisions of 23 V.S.A.
3 §§ 4(37), 1221, and 1283(a)(6) and of any rule that would prohibit school
4 buses retrofitted with auxiliary fuel tanks from lawfully operating on Vermont
5 highways; and

6 (3) be recognized by authorized inspection stations as a waiver of the
7 prohibition on auxiliary or added fuel tanks, and of the requirement that buses
8 only be equipped with such motor fuel tanks as are regularly installed by the
9 manufacturer, specified in the School Bus Periodic Inspection Manual
10 ("Inspection Manual"); provided, however, that no school bus equipped with
11 an auxiliary or added fuel tank shall pass inspection unless all other
12 requirements of the Inspection Manual regarding fuel systems are satisfied.

13 (d) Expiration. The pilot program established and the waivers granted
14 under this section shall expire on September 1, ~~2015~~ 2017.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.