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H.487

Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Chesnut-Tangerman
of Middletown Springs

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Air pollution; motor vehicles; economic development

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: In connection with Mitigation Trust monies that may be allocated to Vermont under the Volkswagen diesel litigation settlement, this bill proposes to require the designated Beneficiary for Vermont to allocate the monies to maximize environmental benefits and economic development in the State and consider issuing a request for proposal for an administrator, or giving authority to the State's existing electric efficiency utility, to design and implement the State's plan for expenditure of the monies.

An act relating to the Volkswagen diesel litigation settlement and Mitigation Trust monies

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

1 (1) Transportation is one of the most costly household expenses for
2 Vermonters and the transportation sector is the most significant contributor to
3 Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions. Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan
4 has established goals to lessen emissions in the transportation sector, including
5 by expanding electric vehicle use.

6 (2) In using Mitigation Trust monies that may be allocated to Vermont
7 under the Volkswagen diesel litigation settlement, Vermont has an opportunity
8 to reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts of the transportation sector
9 while advancing economic activity in the State.

10 (3) The approximately \$17.8 million in Mitigation Trust monies
11 expected to be allocated to Vermont will offer the State the opportunity to
12 transform its transportation sector comprehensively.

13 Sec. 2. VOLKSWAGEN DIESEL LITIGATION SETTLEMENT;

14 USE OF MITIGATION TRUST MONIES

15 With regard to Mitigation Trust monies that may be allocated to Vermont
16 pursuant to the Department of Justice Proposed Consent Decree in the matter
17 of *In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products*
18 *Liability Litigation*, No. 3:15-md-2672, the designated Beneficiary for
19 Vermont shall:

20 (1) Allocate these monies in order to transform the public transportation
21 and school bus markets, expand electric vehicle infrastructure, and incentivize

1 the electrification of heavy and medium duty trucks while leveraging private
2 sector investment. To the extent permitted under the Mitigation Trust
3 Agreement, trust fund monies shall be allocated with the goals of maximizing
4 environmental benefits, return on investment, and economic development in
5 the State.

6 (2) Consider whether to issue a request for proposal for an
7 administrator, or giving authority to the State's existing electric efficiency
8 utility, to design and implement the State's plan for expenditure of Mitigation
9 Trust Fund monies.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.