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S.76

Introduced by Senators McCormack and Zuckerman

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation; motor vehicles; idling

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit motor vehicles from idling for more than three minutes in any 60-minute period, subject to certain exceptions.

An act relating to prohibiting unnecessary idling by motor vehicles

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1110 is added to subchapter 11 of chapter 13 to read:

§ 1110. PROHIBITED IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

(a)(1) General prohibition. A person shall not cause or permit operation of the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle for more than three minutes in any 60-minute period while the vehicle is stationary.

(2) Exceptions. The three-minute limitation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall not apply when:

(A) a military vehicle; an ambulance; a police, fire, or rescue vehicle; or another vehicle used in a public safety or emergency capacity idles as necessary for the conduct of official operations;

1 (B) an armored vehicle idles while a person remains inside the
2 vehicle to guard the contents or while the vehicle is being loaded or unloaded;

3 (C) a motor vehicle idles because of highway traffic conditions, at the
4 direction of an official traffic control device or signal, or at the direction of a
5 law enforcement official;

6 (D) the health or safety of a vehicle occupant requires idling, or when
7 a passenger bus idles as necessary to maintain passenger comfort while
8 nondriver passengers are on board;

9 (E) idling is necessary to operate safety equipment such as
10 windshield defrosters, and operation of the equipment is needed to address
11 specific safety concerns;

12 (F) idling of the primary propulsion engine is needed to power
13 work-related mechanical or electrical operations other than propulsion, such as
14 mixing or processing cargo or straight truck refrigeration, and the motor
15 vehicle is idled to power such work-related operations;

16 (G) a motor vehicle with an occupied sleeper berth compartment
17 idles for purposes of air-conditioning or heating during a rest or sleep period;

18 (H) a motor vehicle idles as necessary for maintenance, service,
19 repair, or diagnostic purposes or as part of a state or federal inspection; or

20 (I) a school bus idles on school grounds in compliance with rules
21 adopted pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1282(f) of this title.

1 (b) Operation of an auxiliary power unit, generator set, or other mobile idle
2 reduction technology is an alternative to operating the primary propulsion
3 engine of a motor vehicle and is not subject to the prohibition of subdivision
4 (a)(1) of this section.

5 (c) In addition to the exemptions set forth in subdivision (a)(2) of this
6 section, the Secretary of Natural Resources may adopt rules governing times or
7 circumstances when operation of the primary propulsion engine of a stationary
8 motor vehicle is reasonably required.

9 (d) A person adjudicated of violating subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall
10 be:

11 (1) issued a warning ticket for a first violation;

12 (2) assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$150.00 for a second
13 violation; and

14 (3) assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$350.00 for a third or
15 subsequent violation.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.