

1 H.160

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford and Briglin of Thetford

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; Type II school bus

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
7 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to approve and certify as lawful the
8 operation of Type II school buses registered in this State that are retrofitted
9 with an auxiliary fuel tank to enable the use of biodiesel, waste vegetable oil,
10 or straight vegetable oil as fuel.

11 An act relating to use of auxiliary fuel tanks on Type II school buses

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

13 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1221b is added to read:

14 § 1221b. APPROVAL OF OPERATION OF TYPE II SCHOOL BUSES

15 RETROFITTED WITH AUXILIARY FUEL TANK

16 (a) Notwithstanding sections 4(37), 1221, and 1283(a)(6) of this title and
17 any other State law that would prohibit school buses retrofitted with auxiliary
18 fuel tanks from lawfully operating on Vermont highways, upon application, the
19 Commissioner may approve qualified persons to operate on Vermont highways
20 Type II school buses registered in this State that are retrofitted with an

1 auxiliary fuel tank to enable the use of biodiesel, waste vegetable oil, or
2 straight vegetable oil as fuel. To be approved under this section:

3 (1) within the prior 60 days, the school bus must have passed inspection
4 under the State's School Bus Periodic Inspection Manual (Inspection Manual)
5 with the auxiliary fuel tank installed, other than the provisions of the
6 Inspection Manual that prohibit auxiliary or added fuel tanks and require that
7 buses only be equipped with such motor fuel tanks as are regularly installed by
8 the manufacturer; and

9 (2) the school bus and its auxiliary tank otherwise must comply with the
10 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to Type II school buses as
11 of the date of manufacture.

12 (b) To receive approval under this section, an applicant shall furnish
13 information requested by the Commissioner necessary for the Commissioner to
14 evaluate the applicant's eligibility. After an applicant furnishes such
15 information and is approved, the Commissioner shall provide the person with a
16 certification that evidences the approval. If the approved person is a
17 municipality or another legal entity, the Commissioner's certification shall list
18 the specific individuals authorized to operate the Type II school bus. The
19 Commissioner's certification shall:

20 (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 of those provisions of sections 4(37), 1221, and 1283(a)(6) of this title
3 and of any Vermont law that would prohibit school buses retrofitted with
4 auxiliary fuel tanks from lawfully operating on Vermont highways; and

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

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on September 1, 2017.