

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE– this bill enables Vermont to participate in a multijurisdictional cap and trade program for greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation, heating, cooling, and ventilation.

EXISTING LANGUAGE

Goal of the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 baseline 50% by 2028 and 75% by 2050

Climate Change Oversight Committee created in 2008 develop greenhouse gas reduction goals, including a cap and trade program for greenhouse gases caused by transportation, heating, cooling, and ventilation. Authority given to the PSB, Secretary of ANR, and Commissioner of Public Service to advocate for cap and trade with appropriate regional or national entities.

NEW LANGUAGE

H. 273 gives the Governor the authority to approve Vermont’s participation in a multijurisdictional cap and trade program to meet goals. This could be an expansion of RGGI, the Western Climate Initiative, or a new initiative that includes 100% consumer allocation.

Secretaries of ANR and PSB, Secretary of Transportation and Commissioner of Public Service shall have the authority to adopt rules to implement this program.

Government sets maximum amount of emissions for air contaminant.

Emissions allowance auctioned

Total emissions equal to the cap

Facility can only emit permitted amount

Allowances may be traded

Points of regulation specified, i.e. distributor

Rules shall state specific emissions thresholds

State shall sell allowances at auction. Proceeds allocated as follows:

\$300,000 to program administration and enforcement, then remainder:

One-quarter to the Home Weatherization Assistance Fund

One-quarter to the Electric Efficiency Fund

One-half to Vermont Sustainable Transportation Fund

Written Reports – first before January 15, 2019, then each year following

Creation of sustainable Transportation Fund to receive monies from program and to invest in infrastructure and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as public transit, car sharing, bike/ped programs, electric vehicles, charging stations, and other energy efficient motor vehicles.

Secretary shall solicit proposals, and adopt a five-year strategic plan, separate from annual transportation planning and prioritizations process.

Report on Sept 15 to House Committees

Effective date, July 1, 2017

