
SENATE BILL 6309

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Rockefeller, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Regala, Oemig, Pridemore, Murray, Marr, Hatfield, Kline, and Tom

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to presale and ongoing disclosure of greenhouse gas
2 tailpipe emissions from new motor vehicles; adding a new section to
3 chapter 70.120A RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends that new motor
6 vehicles in Washington permanently display clear and easy to understand
7 information disclosing a new motor vehicle's greenhouse gas tailpipe
8 emissions. Further, the legislature intends that presale and ongoing
9 disclosure of such emissions serve as a means of educating consumers,
10 other motorists, and the general public about the sources of greenhouse
11 gas, their impact, available options, and in particular the role and
12 contribution of automobiles and other motor vehicles.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.120A
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) No model year two thousand ten or subsequent model year motor
16 vehicle may be sold in Washington unless there is securely,
17 conspicuously, and permanently affixed in a clearly visible location a

1 label on which the manufacturer clearly discloses comparative
2 greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions for that new motor vehicle.

3 (2) The label required by this section should include a greenhouse
4 gas index or rating system that contains quantitative and graphical
5 information presented in a continuous, easy-to-read scale that compares
6 the greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions from the motor vehicle with the
7 average projected greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions from all motor
8 vehicles of the same model year. For reference purposes, the index or
9 rating system should also identify the greenhouse gas tailpipe
10 emissions from the motor vehicle model of that same model year that has
11 the lowest greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions.

12 (3) To ensure that the disclosure label is useful and informative
13 to consumers, other motorists, and the general public, the department
14 of ecology shall, in designing the label and to the extent feasible
15 within its existing resources:

16 (a) Seek input from automotive consumers, graphic design
17 professionals, automotive dealers, persons with expertise in
18 environmental labeling, and relevant state and federal agencies; and

19 (b) Consider other relevant label formats that are consistent with
20 this section, including those proposed for use in California and New
21 York.

22 (4) The index or rating system included in the label under
23 subsection (2) of this section shall be updated as necessary by the
24 department to ensure that the differences in greenhouse gas tailpipe
25 emissions among motor vehicles are readily apparent to the consumer.

26 (5) An automobile manufacturer may apply to the department of
27 ecology for approval of an alternative to the disclosure labeling
28 requirement that is at least as effective in providing notification and
29 disclosure of the motor vehicle's greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions as
30 is the labeling required by this section.

31 (6) The definitions in this section apply throughout this section
32 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

33 (a) "Greenhouse gas" has the same definition as in RCW 80.80.010.

34 (b) "Motor vehicle" has the same definition as in RCW 70.120.010.

35 (7) The department of ecology may adopt such rules as are necessary
36 to implement this section.

37 (8) The department of ecology shall provide a status report to
38 appropriate committees of the legislature on or before December 1,

1 2008, outlining its approach and progress toward implementing a
2 greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions disclosure labeling program for
3 Washington.

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