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**Technology, Energy &  
Communications Committee**

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**HB 1055**

**Brief Description:** Defining alternative motor fuels.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Hudgins, B. Sullivan, Morris, Dunshee and Chase.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Provides a definition of "alcohol fuel" in the Motor Fuel Quality Act.

**Hearing Date:** 1/17/07

**Staff:** Kara Durbin (786-7133).

**Background:**

Alcohol fuels are made from crops such as corn, wheat, barley, potatoes, sugarcane, and the cellulose of plants such as switchgrass, straw, and trees. Methanol and ethanol are two types of alcohol fuels used in motor vehicles. Ethanol is most commonly produced from corn and sugarcane. Methanol is primarily made from natural gas, but also can be made from renewable sources.

The term alcohol fuel is not defined consistently in current law. For purposes of the Business and Occupation tax deduction, "alcohol fuel" is defined as any product other than petroleum or natural gas in which the fuel constitutes at least 85 percent of any fuel that is blended with gasoline. For purposes of the retail sales tax exemption, "alcohol fuel blend" is defined as a fuel that contains at least 85 percent alcohol fuel by volume, which is made from a product other than petroleum or natural gas that is used alone or in combination with gasoline or other petroleum products for use as fuel for motor vehicles or farming implements.

The Motor Fuel Quality Act (Act) provides for the establishment of quality specifications for all liquid motor fuels, except aviation fuel, marine fuel, and liquefied petroleum gases, and it establishes a sampling, testing, and enforcement program. "Motor fuel" is defined in the Act as

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any liquid product used for the generation of power in an internal combustion engine used for the propulsion of a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state.

The Act contains a definition of diesel and biodiesel fuel, but does not define alcohol fuel.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Motor Fuel Quality Act is amended to include a definition for alcohol fuel.

"Alcohol fuel" is defined as any alcohol made from a product other than petroleum or natural gas that is used alone or in combination with gasoline or other petroleum products for use as a fuel in a self-propelled motor vehicle.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.