



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1579

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S.P. 456

In Senate, April 27, 2021

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**An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to 100  
Percent Zero-emission Vehicles**

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Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.  
Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives:  
BRENNAN of Portland, DUNPHY of Old Town, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, McCREA of Fort  
Fairfield.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1830, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

3 **12. Vehicle emissions goals.** The Central Fleet Management Division in acquiring,  
4 maintaining and managing light-duty motor vehicles shall to the extent practicable do so in  
5 a manner designed to meet the following goals:

6 A. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the state fleet of light-duty motor vehicles by  
7 75% by 2035; and

8 B. Transition 100% of the state fleet of light-duty motor vehicles to zero-emission  
9 vehicles by 2040.

10 For purposes of this subsection, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross  
11 vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds.

12 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5401, sub-§15-A** is enacted to read:

13 **15-A. Zero-emission public school bus fleet goal.** The department in approving  
14 school bus purchases, contracts and leases under subsection 15 shall to the extent  
15 practicable grant such approvals in a manner designed to meet the following goals:

16 A. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the public school bus fleet by 75% by 2035;  
17 and

18 B. Transition 100% of the public school bus fleet to zero-emission school buses by  
19 2040.

20 The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to  
21 this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
22 2-A.

23 **Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2918** is enacted to read:

24 **§2918. Vehicle emissions goals**

25 The Department of Public Safety in acquiring, maintaining and managing light-duty  
26 motor vehicles shall to the extent practicable do so in a manner designed to meet the  
27 following goals:

28 **1. Reduction by 2035.** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the department's fleet of  
29 light-duty motor vehicles by 75% by 2035; and

30 **2. Transition by 2040.** Transition 100% of the department's fleet of light-duty motor  
31 vehicles to zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

32 For purposes of this section, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross  
33 vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds.

34 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §125, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

35 **2. Zero-emission transportation fleet goal.** A county in approving purchases,  
36 contracts and leases for light-duty motor vehicles used for utility services or for public  
37 transportation shall to the extent practicable grant such approvals in a manner designed to  
38 meet the following goals:

1 A. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the county fleet of light-duty motor vehicles  
2 used for utility services or for public transportation by 75% by 2035; and

3 B. Transition 100% of the county fleet of light-duty motor vehicles used for utility  
4 services or for public transportation to zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

5 For purposes of this subsection, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross  
6 vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds.

7 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §3111** is enacted to read:

8 **§3111. Vehicle emissions goals**

9 A municipality in approving purchases, contracts and leases for light-duty motor  
10 vehicles used for utility services or for public transportation shall to the extent practicable  
11 grant such approvals in a manner designed to meet the following goals:

12 **1. Reduction by 2035.** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the municipal fleet of  
13 light-duty motor vehicles used for utility services or for public transportation by 75% by  
14 2035; and

15 **2. Transition by 2040.** Transition 100% of the municipal fleet of light-duty motor  
16 vehicles used for utility services or for public transportation to zero-emission vehicles by  
17 2040.

18 For purposes of this section, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross  
19 vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds.

20 **Sec. 6. Working group convened.** The Governor's Energy Office, as established  
21 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2, section 9, shall convene an interagency working  
22 group, referred to in this section as "the working group," to develop a plan to transition  
23 publicly owned vehicles, including motor vehicles used for utility services, public  
24 transportation and public school transportation, to 100% zero-emissions fleets by 2040.  
25 The working group must, at a minimum, consist of representatives from the Department of  
26 Education, the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Public  
27 Utilities Commission, the Efficiency Maine Trust and the transportation working group of  
28 the Maine Climate Council.

29 **1. Duties.** In developing the plan, the working group shall:

30 A. Review different types of zero-emission vehicles and very low-emission vehicles  
31 and the benefits and challenges associated with the different technologies, including,  
32 but not limited to, electric vehicles using lithium ion, molten salt, nickel metal hydride  
33 and lithium sulphur batteries; vehicles using hydrogen fuel cells or propane; and hybrid  
34 vehicles;

35 B. Review options for financing the acquisition of electric or other zero-emission  
36 vehicles in a cost-effective manner for the State;

37 C. Engage electric utilities and other private entities that have an interest in partnering  
38 with the State to acquire electric or other zero-emission vehicles;

39 D. Review what capacity electric vehicles have to support the modernization of  
40 Maine's electric grid through so-called vehicle-to-grid technology;

1 E. Assess the need for legislative and rule changes to effectuate transition to a zero-  
2 emission vehicle fleets by 2040; and

3 F. Assess the need for training and education that the State will require to maintain  
4 zero-emission vehicles.

5 **2. Report.** The working group shall submit its plan and report with findings and  
6 recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the  
7 Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than December 7, 2022.  
8 Following receipt and review of the report, the committee may submit a bill concerning the  
9 subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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## SUMMARY

12 This bill establishes goals and timetables for the State, counties and municipalities to  
13 reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty motor vehicles, motor vehicles used for  
14 utility services, motor vehicles used for public transportation and motor vehicles used for  
15 public school transportation by 75% by 2035 and achieve 100% zero-emission fleets by  
16 2040. It also directs the Governor's Energy Office to convene an interagency working  
17 group to develop a plan to achieve the transition to zero-emission fleets and sets out specific  
18 duties for that working group.