

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
S.P. 456 - L.D. 1579

An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles and Zero-emission Vehicles

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

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

12. Vehicle emissions goals. The Central Fleet Management Division and the Department of Public Safety in acquiring by purchase or lease and managing light-duty motor vehicles shall to the extent practicable do so in a manner designed to meet the following goals:

A. By 2025, increase the percentage of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles acquired annually to 50% of the annual acquisitions of light-duty motor vehicles; and

B. By 2030, increase the percentage of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles acquired annually to 100% of the annual acquisitions of light-duty motor vehicles.

For purposes of this subsection, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5401, sub-§15, ¶C, as amended by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §18 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is further amended to read:

C. A school board may obtain a short-term loan or enter into a lease-purchase agreement to acquire school buses if the loan is approved by the unit's legislative body or if funds that can be used for the initial lease-purchase payment have been appropriated by the unit's legislative body. The term of a loan or a lease-purchase agreement may not exceed 5 years except that the term may be up to 15 years for zero-emission school buses. The commissioner shall establish a maximum amount for annual-term purchases in excess of the amount established in paragraph A. Beginning in fiscal year 2005-06, these expenditures must be subsidized in accordance with chapter 606-B.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §5401, sub-§15-A is enacted to read:

15-A. Zero-emission public school bus fleet goal. The commissioner in approving school bus purchases, contracts and leases under subsection 15 shall to the extent practicable grant such approvals in a manner designed to result by 2035 in at least 75% of annual school bus acquisitions being zero-emission vehicles.

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

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2918 is enacted to read:

§2918. Vehicle emissions goals

The Department of Public Safety in acquiring and managing light-duty motor vehicles shall do so in accordance with Title 5, section 1830, subsection 12.

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §125, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. Vehicle emissions goals. In acquiring by purchase or lease light-duty motor vehicles a county shall to the extent practicable do so in a manner designed to increase by 2035 the percentage of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles acquired annually to 100% of the annual acquisitions of light-duty motor vehicles.

For purposes of this subsection, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §3111 is enacted to read:

§3111. Vehicle emissions goals

In acquiring by purchase or lease light-duty motor vehicles a municipality shall to the extent practicable do so in a manner designed to increase by 2035 the percentage of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles acquired annually to 100% of the annual acquisitions of light-duty motor vehicles.

For purposes of this section, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

Sec. 7. 35-A MRSA §10104, sub-§4, ¶F, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 209, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) Promoting the purchase of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least ~~120,000~~ 220,000 such vehicles registered in the State.

For the purposes of this subparagraph, "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

Sec. 8. Working group convened. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, as established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3102, shall convene an interagency working group, referred to in this section as "the working group," to develop a plan to achieve the increase established in Title 20-A, section 5401, subsection 15-A for zero-emission school buses. The working group must, at a minimum, consist of

representatives from the Governor's Energy Office, as established under Title 2, section 9, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Utilities Commission and the Efficiency Maine Trust and at least one member representing school administrative units.

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

A. Review different types of zero-emission school buses and the benefits and challenges associated with the different technologies;

B. Review options for financing the acquisition of zero-emission school buses in a cost-effective manner for school administrative units;

C. Engage electric utilities and other private entities that have an interest in partnering with school administrative units to acquire zero-emission school buses;

D. Engage school administrative units and other stakeholders in planning for the deployment of charging infrastructure to support zero-emission school buses; and

E. Assess the need for training and education that school administrative units will require to maintain zero-emission school buses.

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