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

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

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 in acquiring,
maintaining and managing light-duty motor vehicles shall to the extent practicable do so in
a manner designed to meet the following goals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 3.  25 MRSA §2918 is enacted to read:

§2918.  Vehicle emissions goals

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

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

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

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

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

2.  Zero-emission transportation fleet goal.  A county in approving purchases,
contracts and leases for light-duty motor vehicles used for utility services or for public
transportation shall to the extent practicable grant such approvals in a manner designed to
meet the following goals:
A. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the county fleet of light-duty motor vehicles used for utility services or for public transportation by 75% by 2035; and

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

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

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

§3111. Vehicle emissions goals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Review what capacity electric vehicles have to support the modernization of Maine's electric grid through so-called vehicle-to-grid technology;
E. Assess the need for legislative and rule changes to effectuate transition to a zero-emission vehicle fleets by 2040; and

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

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.

SUMMARY

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