

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 581

To provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which  
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public  
Works

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## A BILL

To provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers  
and consumers, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Fuel Choice and De-  
5       regulation Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE FUELS.**

7       (a) AFTERMARKET CONVERSIONS OF MOTOR VEHI-  
8       CLES TO ALTERNATIVE FUEL.—Section 203 of the Clean  
9       Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7522) is amended by adding at the  
10      end the following:

1 “(c) OLDER VEHICLES.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The aftermarket conversion  
3 of a motor vehicle to alternative fuel operation shall  
4 not—

5 “(A) be considered tampering under this  
6 section if the aftermarket conversion system  
7 manufacturer or the person performing the con-  
8 version demonstrates that the development and  
9 engineering sophistication of the conversion  
10 technology is—

11 “(i) matched to an appropriate motor  
12 vehicle or group of motor vehicles; and

13 “(ii) well-designed and installed in ac-  
14 cordance with good engineering judgment  
15 so that the aftermarket conversion system  
16 does not degrade emission performance, as  
17 compared to the performance of the motor  
18 vehicle or motor vehicles before the conver-  
19 sion; or

20 “(B) require the Administrator to issue a  
21 certificate of conformity.

22 “(2) LABEL.—The person performing a conver-  
23 sion described in paragraph (1) shall affix a label to  
24 the motor vehicle stating that—

1 “(A) the motor vehicle has been equipped  
2 with an aftermarket conversion system; and

3 “(B) the installation of that system oc-  
4 curred after the initial sale of the motor vehicle.

5 “(3) NO PRECLUSION OF ORDERS.—Nothing in  
6 this subsection precludes the Administrator from  
7 issuing an order to prohibit the manufacture, sale,  
8 distribution, or installation of an aftermarket con-  
9 version system if the Administrator has evidence  
10 that the installation of the aftermarket conversion  
11 system on a motor vehicle degrades emission per-  
12 formance.”.

13 (b) BIOMASS FUELS.—Section 211 of the Clean Air  
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 7545) is amended by adding at the end  
15 the following:

16 “(w) BIOMASS FUELS.—Notwithstanding any other  
17 provision of this Act, the Administrator may not prohibit  
18 or control biomass fuel (as defined in section 203 of the  
19 Biomass Energy and Alcohol Fuels Act of 1980 (42  
20 U.S.C. 8802)) under this Act.”.

21 **SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 32901(a) of title 49,  
23 United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through  
25 (19) as paragraphs (8), (9), (10), (13), (16), (17),

1 (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), and (26), respec-  
 2 tively;

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
 4 lowing:

5 “(7) ‘biodiesel’—

6 “(A) means liquid fuel derived from bio-  
 7 mass that meets—

8 “(i) the registration requirements for  
 9 fuels and fuel additives established by the  
 10 Environmental Protection Agency under  
 11 section 211 of the Clean Air Act (42  
 12 U.S.C. 7545); and

13 “(ii) the requirements of the Amer-  
 14 ican Society of Testing Materials Standard  
 15 D6751; and

16 “(B) does not include any liquid with re-  
 17 spect to which a credit may be determined  
 18 under section 40 of the Internal Revenue Code  
 19 of 1986.”;

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (10) (as so re-  
 21 designated) the following:

22 “(11) ‘E85’ means a fuel mixture that—

23 “(A) contains between 51 and 83 percent  
 24 ethanol; and

1 “(B) meets the specifications of the Amer-  
2 ican Society of Testing Materials Standard  
3 D5798.

4 “(12) ‘flexible fuel vehicle’ means a vehicle that  
5 has been warranted to operate on gasoline, E85, and  
6 M85.”;

7 (4) by inserting after paragraph (13) (as so re-  
8 designated) the following:

9 “(14) ‘fuel choice enabling manufacturer’  
10 means a manufacturer whose total fleet of auto-  
11 mobiles manufactured for the most recent model  
12 year for sale in the United States contains not less  
13 than 50 percent fuel choice enabling vehicles.

14 “(15) ‘fuel choice enabling vehicle’ means an  
15 automobile that—

16 “(A) has been warranted to operate on  
17 natural gas, hydrogen, propane, or at least 20  
18 percent biodiesel;

19 “(B) is a flexible fuel vehicle;

20 “(C) is a plug-in electric drive vehicle;

21 “(D) is propelled by a fuel cell that can  
22 produce power without the use of petroleum or  
23 a petroleum-based fuel; or

24 “(E)(i) is propelled by something other  
25 than an internal combustion engine; and

1 “(ii) is warranted to operate on something  
2 other than petroleum-based fuel.”;

3 (5) by inserting after paragraph (17) (as so re-  
4 designated) the following:

5 “(18) ‘M85’ means a fuel mixture that—

6 “(A) contains up to 85 percent methanol;  
7 and

8 “(B) meets the specifications of the Amer-  
9 ican Society of Testing Materials International  
10 Standard D5797.”; and

11 (6) by inserting after paragraph (24) (as so re-  
12 designated) the following:

13 “(25) ‘plug-in electric drive vehicle’ has the  
14 meaning given the term in section 508(a) of the En-  
15 ergy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13258(a)).”.

16 (b) FUEL CHOICE ENABLING MANUFACTURERS.—

17 (1) COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT.—

18 Section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, is  
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(l) DEEMED COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLEAN AIR  
21 ACT.—If a fuel choice enabling manufacturer is in compli-  
22 ance with all applicable standards prescribed under this  
23 section for model year 2020 or any subsequent model year,  
24 the automobiles manufactured by that manufacturer in  
25 that model year are deemed to be in compliance with all

1 applicable greenhouse gas regulations established by the  
 2 Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to section 202  
 3 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521).”.

4 (2) CREDITS FOR EXCEEDING STANDARDS.—  
 5 Section 32903(a) of title 49, United States Code, is  
 6 amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the  
 7 following:

8 “(2) any of the 5 consecutive model years im-  
 9 mediately after the model year for which the credits  
 10 are earned, to the extent that those credits are not  
 11 used under paragraph (1).”.

12 (3) AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY BONUS FOR FUEL  
 13 CHOICE ENABLING MANUFACTURERS.—Section  
 14 32904 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

15 (A) by redesignating subsections (d) and  
 16 (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

17 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the  
 18 following:

19 “(d) AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY BONUS FOR FUEL  
 20 CHOICE ENABLING MANUFACTURERS.—The average fuel  
 21 economy of a fuel choice enabling manufacturer for a  
 22 model year is the sum of—

23 “(1) the average fuel economy of the fuel choice  
 24 enabling manufacturer for that model year, as other-  
 25 wise calculated under this section; and

1           “(2) 8 miles per gallon.”.

2           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
3 this section shall apply with respect to automobiles manu-  
4 factured for model year 2020 or for any subsequent model  
5 year.

6 **SEC. 4. ETHANOL WAIVER.**

7           Section 211(h)(4) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 7545(h)(4)) is amended—

9           (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
10          by inserting “or more of” after “10 percent”; and

11          (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “additional  
12          alcohol or”.

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