

2016 -- S 3057

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LC006116  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES-CLEAN DIESEL

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Archambault, Sosnowski, Lynch Prata, and Pearson

Date Introduced: June 02, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 31-47.3 of the General Laws entitled "The Diesel Emissions  
2 Reduction Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **31-47.3-5.1. Establishment of the Rhode Island clean diesel fund. -- (a) There is**  
4 **hereby authorized and created within DEM a Rhode Island clean diesel fund for the purpose of**  
5 **reducing emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines operating on state roads and helping**  
6 **companies improve supply chain efficiency as described in the United States Environmental**  
7 **Protection Agency's SmartWay Program. The clean diesel fund will solicit projects that undertake**  
8 **eligible clean diesel measures and award grants from the fund to reimburse applicants for**  
9 **undertaking these measures.**

10           **(b) DEM shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42**  
11 **containing a list of eligible clean diesel measures which shall include, but not be limited to, the**  
12 **following:**

13           **(1) Aerodynamic technologies;**

14           **(2) Clean alternative fuel conversions;**

15           **(3) Diesel emission reduction solutions;**

16           **(4) Engine repowers;**

17           **(5) Idle reduction technologies;**

18           **(6) Low rolling resistance tires;**

19           **(7) Vehicle replacements; and**

1           (8) Replacement or upgrades of transport refrigeration units or transport refrigeration unit  
2 generator sets.

3           (c) Equipment eligible for grant funding must:

4           (1) Be intended for on-road use;

5           (2) Be registered with the Rhode Island division of motor vehicles;

6           (3) Be kept or garaged in Rhode Island as indicated on the vehicle registration issued by  
7 the division of motor vehicles;

8           (4) Have been certified to DEM that fifty percent (50%) or more of vehicle miles  
9 traveled, or hours of operation, shall be projected to be in Rhode Island for at least five (5) years  
10 following the grant award; and

11           (5) Meet any other criteria established in DEM rules and regulations promulgated by  
12 DEM pursuant to Chapter 35 of title 42.

13           (d) Administrative costs. - The cost of administration and outreach by DEM shall not in  
14 any year exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) or ten percent (10%) of the fund  
15 appropriation, whichever is greater.

16           (e) Project priority list. - DEM shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to chapter  
17 35 of title 42 that contain a project priority list for the Rhode Island clean diesel fund and the  
18 process through which an eligible applicant may submit an application for inclusion of a project  
19 on the project priority list. Upon issuance of the project priority list by DEM, the project priority  
20 list shall be used by DEM to determine the order in which grants shall be awarded.

21           (f) Awarding of grants. - DEM shall only award grant funds after verifying that the  
22 eligible measures outlined in the application have been implemented successfully by the  
23 applicant. If the final invoice price of an eligible measure is less than the initial quoted price, the  
24 grant award shall be reduced accordingly. Grants shall not be awarded to aid in compliance with  
25 existing mandates in state or federal law.

26           (g) Grant amounts. - For each eligible measure implemented by the applicant, DEM shall  
27 only issue grants for up to fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost. DEM shall promulgate  
28 rules and regulations pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42 that set the exact reimbursement amount  
29 for each eligible measure. The total project cost shall include both the material and labor needed  
30 to implement each eligible measure. No one applicant shall be awarded more than twenty-five  
31 percent (25%) of the grant funds appropriated during a given fiscal year, provided that the total  
32 grants requested exceed the amount appropriated. If the total amount of grants requested is less  
33 than the amount appropriated in a given fiscal year, DEM may allocate more than twenty-five  
34 percent (25%) of the fund to one applicant.

1           (h) Vehicle replacements. - For projects that propose to replace vehicles, the following  
2 conditions shall be met:

3           (1) The applicant shall replace an older vehicle with a newer vehicle certified to more  
4 stringent emissions standards than the engine or vehicle being replaced;

5           (2) The vehicle being replaced is a model year at least ten (10) years old;

6           (3) The vehicle being replaced has a gross vehicle weight rating of thirty-three thousand  
7 one pounds (33,001 lbs.) or greater;

8           (4) The replacement vehicle purchased by the applicant is a model year no more than  
9 three (3) years old;

10          (5) The replacement vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of thirty-three thousand one  
11 pounds (33,001 lbs.) or greater;

12          (6) The replacement vehicle must be operable with remaining useful life as defined in  
13 rules and regulations promulgated by DEM pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42.

14          (7) The engine of the vehicle being replaced must be scrapped or otherwise rendered  
15 inoperable in a manner consistent with rules and regulations promulgated by DEM pursuant to  
16 chapter 35 of title 42;

17          (8) The amount of funding requested must contain the sale price of the vehicle, not  
18 including any interest or other finance charges; and

19          (9) A vehicle purchased on a lease must be operated for the life of the project, with the  
20 life of the project being included in the application approved by DEM.

21          (i) Transport refrigeration unit replacement. - For projects that propose to replace or  
22 upgrade transport refrigeration units or transport refrigeration unit generator sets, the following  
23 conditions shall be met:

24          (1) The transport refrigeration unit or transport refrigeration unit generator set being  
25 replaced or upgraded is powered by a diesel engine;

26          (2) The transport refrigeration unit or transport refrigeration unit generator set being  
27 replaced or upgraded is being used on a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of thirty-three  
28 thousand one pounds (33,001 lbs.) or greater;

29          (3) The replacement or upgraded transport refrigeration unit or transport refrigeration unit  
30 generator set produces fewer emissions than the equipment being replaced or upgraded; and

31          (4) The replacement or upgraded transport refrigeration unit or transport refrigeration unit  
32 generator set meets emission criteria established by DEM in rules and regulations promulgated by  
33 DEM pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42.

34          (i) Reporting. - Projects receiving grant funding from DEM shall be subject to any

1 reporting and data collection requirement specified in DEM rules and regulations promulgated by  
2 DEM pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42.

3 (j) Penalties. - Applicants awarded funds under this program may be penalized for  
4 breaching the terms of their grant award or for other project non-performance through the:

5 (1) Cancellation of the grant award;

6 (2) Recovery of all or a portion of the grant award;

7 (3) Other fiscal penalties on an applicant based on the severity of non-performance and as  
8 specified in rules and regulations promulgated by DEM pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42; or

9 (4) Prohibiting an applicant or a specific vehicle from participating in the program in the  
10 future.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES-CLEAN DIESEL

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1           This act would establish the Rhode Island clean diesel fund for the purpose of reducing  
2 emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines operating on state roads and helping companies  
3 improve supply chain efficiency as described in the United States Environmental Protection  
4 Agency's SmartWay program.

5           The act would take effect upon passage.

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