

2025 -- H 5612

LC001031

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PROMOTION OF BIOFUELS ACT OF 2011

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Santucci, Paplauskas, Fascia, Quattrocchi, and Hopkins

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-36.2 of the General Laws entitled "Promotion of Biofuels Act of  
2 2011" is hereby repealed in its entirety.

3 ~~CHAPTER 31-36.2~~

4 ~~Promotion of Biofuels Act of 2011~~

5 ~~31-36.2-1. Short title.~~

6 ~~This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Promotion of Biofuels Act of 2011."~~

7 ~~31-36.2-2. Biofuels study commission established.~~

8 ~~(a) Membership. There is hereby established a special study commission to study the~~  
9 ~~feasibility and effectiveness of various forms of incentives to promote the development and use of~~  
10 ~~advanced biofuels in the state including, but not limited to: production credits, the production and~~  
11 ~~harvesting of woody biomass or woody residue, feedstock incentives, and direct consumer credits~~  
12 ~~for the use of advanced biofuels in various applications. Said commission shall be known as the~~  
13 ~~Biofuels Study Commission and shall be comprised of fifteen (15) members: five (5) of whom shall~~  
14 ~~be members of the house of representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party,~~  
15 ~~to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of whom shall be members~~  
16 ~~of the senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the senate~~  
17 ~~president; one of whom shall be the director of the department of environmental management, or~~  
18 ~~his or her designee; one of whom shall be employed by an independent organization in the field of~~

1 ~~the environment and fuels, to be appointed by the speaker of the house; one of whom shall be the~~  
2 ~~director of the office of energy resources, or his or her designee; three (3) of whom shall be~~  
3 ~~employed by companies that work in and/or who themselves work in the field of advanced biofuels,~~  
4 ~~to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and one of whom shall be from the~~  
5 ~~University of Rhode Island cooperative extension, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of~~  
6 ~~representatives.~~

7 (b) ~~Purpose. The purpose of the commission shall be to investigate and develop a strategy~~  
8 ~~to increase the use of advanced biofuels as alternatives to conventional carbon based fuels by the~~  
9 ~~state, its agencies and political subdivisions and regional transit authorities, and also to promote the~~  
10 ~~use of such fuels in all sectors of the state, both private and public. In conducting its investigation~~  
11 ~~and study, the commission shall consider biofuel incentive programs in other states and the states'~~  
12 ~~relative competitiveness in the field.~~

13 (c) ~~Information furnished. All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish any~~  
14 ~~advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to the commission and its agents that is~~  
15 ~~deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.~~

16 (d) ~~The commission shall report to the general assembly on the results of its investigations~~  
17 ~~and study and its recommendations, if any, on or before January 23, 2012, and at least every two~~  
18 ~~(2) years thereafter on its continued findings and the results of its studies, and shall make such~~  
19 ~~recommendations to the general assembly as it deems advisable.~~

20 **31-36.2-3. Further study purposes of biofuels study commission.**

21 (a) ~~The biofuels study commission established pursuant to the provisions of this chapter~~  
22 ~~shall explore the possibility of developing and entering into, to the extent possible, an agreement~~  
23 ~~among those states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, for the purpose of~~  
24 ~~implementing a low carbon fuel standard (hereinafter referred to as "LCFS"), for transportation~~  
25 ~~fuels. Provided, the commission is not authorized to, nor shall the commission enter into any form~~  
26 ~~of agreement, contract, compact, memorandum of understanding, or similar document or~~  
27 ~~arrangement.~~

28 (b) ~~By way of guidance, in developing proposed agreements, such agreements should seek~~  
29 ~~to provide for the following, when reasonably possible:~~

30 (1) ~~That LCFS shall be measured on a full fuels lifecycle basis;~~

31 (2) ~~That LCFS may be met through market based methods by which providers exceeding~~  
32 ~~the performance required by an LCFS shall receive credits that may be applied to future obligations~~  
33 ~~or traded to providers not meeting the LCFS;~~

34 (3) ~~That agreement shall establish a declining standard for greenhouse gas emissions~~

1 measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent grams per unit of fuel energy sold, sufficient to achieve a ten percent  
2 (10%) reduction in the carbon content of all passenger vehicle fuels sold in participating states; and

3 ~~(4) That the state shall, with the other states participating in the agreement, examine the~~  
4 ~~regulations and implementation of a low carbon fuel standard in California and other states and~~  
5 ~~consider ways to coordinate and issue public findings on both such matters, and if applicable, use~~  
6 ~~in the agreement the life cycle analysis methods employed by the California Air Resources Board~~  
7 ~~to determine the carbon intensity of fuel. The state shall, with other states, adopt life cycle~~  
8 ~~emissions accounting standards that are consistent with the EPA's recently revised regulations for~~  
9 ~~the federal renewable fuel standard.~~

10 **31-36.2-4. Biofuels as alternatives to carbon-based fuels.**

11 ~~(a) In addition to the preceding provisions of this chapter, the biofuels study commission~~  
12 ~~shall investigate and develop a strategy to increase the use of advanced biofuels as alternatives to~~  
13 ~~conventional carbon-based fuels by the state, its agencies and political subdivisions and regional~~  
14 ~~transit authorities.~~

15 ~~(b) The commission shall develop strategies to increase the use of advanced biofuels by~~  
16 ~~the state, its agencies and political subdivisions and regional transit authorities and methods to~~  
17 ~~advance those strategies. Methods to be considered shall include, but not be limited to: financing~~  
18 ~~mechanisms including grants, loans and other incentive programs for group procurement of~~  
19 ~~advanced biofuels, vehicles using advanced biofuels and distribution infrastructure and technical~~  
20 ~~assistance.~~

21 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 -- PROMOTION OF BIOFUELS ACT OF  
2011

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- 1           This act would repeal the Promotion of Biofuels Act of 2011, which established a study
- 2           commission to investigate the use and promotion of such fuels within the state, in its entirety.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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