

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 323

Short Title: Ambient Air Quality Improvement/AB.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hackney; and Luebke.

Referred to: Environment & Natural Resources.

March 4, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO IMPROVE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY BY AUTHORIZING THE
2 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO EXPAND THE
3 MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 143-215.107(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Duty to Adopt Plans, Standards, etc. – The Commission is hereby directed and
8 empowered, as rapidly as possible within the limits of funds and facilities available to it,
9 and subject to the procedural requirements of this Article and Article 21:

10 (1) To prepare and develop, after proper study, a comprehensive plan or
11 plans for the prevention, abatement and control of air pollution in the
12 State or in any designated area of the State.

13 (2) To determine by means of field sampling and other studies, including
14 the examination of available data collected by any local, State or federal
15 agency or any person, the degree of air contamination and air pollution
16 in the State and the several areas of the State.

17 (3) To develop and adopt, after proper study, air quality standards
18 applicable to the State as a whole or to any designated area of the State
19 as the Commission deems proper in order to promote the policies and
20 purposes of this Article and Article 21 most effectively.

- 1 (4) To collect information or to require reporting from classes of sources
2 which, in the judgment of the Environmental Management Commission,
3 may cause or contribute to air pollution. Any person operating or
4 responsible for the operation of air contaminant sources of any class for
5 which the Commission requires reporting shall make reports containing
6 such information as may be required by the Commission concerning
7 location, size, and height of contaminant outlets, processes employed,
8 fuels used, and the nature and time periods or duration of emissions, and
9 such other information as is relevant to air pollution and available or
10 reasonably capable of being assembled.
- 11 (5) To develop and adopt emission control standards as in the judgment of
12 the Commission may be necessary to prohibit, abate, or control air
13 pollution commensurate with established air quality standards. The
14 standards may be applied uniformly to the State as a whole or to any
15 area of the State designated by the Commission. This subdivision does
16 not apply to that portion of the National Emission Standards for
17 Hazardous Air Pollutants for asbestos that governs demolition and
18 renovation as set out in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141, 61.145, 61.150, and 61.154
19 (1 July 1993 edition).
- 20 (6) To adopt, when necessary and practicable, a program for testing
21 emissions from motor vehicles and to adopt motor vehicle emission
22 standards in compliance with applicable federal regulations. adopt
23 motor vehicle emissions standards; to adopt, when necessary and
24 practicable, a motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance
25 program to improve ambient air quality; to designate emissions
26 counties; and to certify to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that the
27 ambient air quality in an area will be improved by the implementation
28 of a motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program. The
29 Commission may adopt different motor vehicle emissions standards and
30 different motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs
31 for different areas or counties as may be necessary and appropriate to
32 improve ambient air quality.
- 33 (7) To develop and adopt standards and plans necessary to implement
34 programs for the prevention of significant deterioration and for the
35 attainment of air quality standards in nonattainment areas.
- 36 (8) To develop and adopt standards and plans necessary to implement
37 programs to control acid deposition and to regulate the use of sulfur
38 dioxide allowances and nitrogen oxides emissions in accordance with
39 Title IV and implementing regulations adopted by the United States
40 Environmental Protection Agency.
- 41 (9) To regulate the oxygen content of gasoline, to require use of
42 reformulated gasoline as the Commission determines necessary, to
43 implement the requirements of Title II and implementing regulations

1 adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to
2 develop standards and plans to implement this subdivision. Rules
3 adopted under this subdivision may specify standards for a particular
4 area of the State that differ from standards specified for other areas as
5 may be necessary to improve ambient air quality within a particular
6 area, achieve attainment or preclude violations of the National Ambient
7 Air Quality Standards, or to meet other federal requirements. Rules may
8 authorize the use of marketable oxygen credits for gasoline as provided
9 in federal requirements.

10 (10) To develop and adopt standards and plans necessary to implement
11 requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and implementing regulations
12 adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

13 (11) To develop and adopt economically feasible standards and plans
14 necessary to implement programs to control the emission of odors from
15 animal operations, as defined in G.S. 143-215.10B."

16 Section 2. G.S. 20-39(e) reads as rewritten:

17 "(e) The Commissioner is authorized to cooperate with and provide assistance to
18 the Environmental Management Commission, or appropriate local government officials,
19 and to develop, adopt, and ensure enforcement of ~~necessary rules and regulations, regarding~~
20 ~~programs of motor vehicle emissions inspection/maintenance required for areas in which~~
21 ~~ambient air pollutant concentrations exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards. rules~~
22 governing motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs adopted
23 pursuant to G.S. 143-215.107(a)(6)."

24 Section 3. G.S. 20-128.2(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) The rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to G.S. 143-215.107(a)(6)
26 shall be implemented when the Environmental Management Commission certifies to the
27 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that the ambient air quality in an area will be improved
28 by the implementation of a motor vehicle ~~inspection/maintenance emissions inspection and~~
29 maintenance program within a specified county or group of counties, ~~as necessary to effect~~
30 ~~attainment or preclude violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon~~
31 ~~monoxide or ozone; provided the Environmental Management Commission may prescribe~~
32 ~~different vehicle emission limits for different areas as may be necessary and appropriate to meet~~
33 ~~the stated purposes of this section. counties."~~

34 Section 4. G.S. 20-183.2 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 20-183.2. Description of vehicles subject to safety or emissions inspection;**
36 **definitions.**

37 (a) Safety. – A motor vehicle is subject to a safety inspection in accordance with
38 this Part if it meets all of the following requirements:

39 (1) It is subject to registration with the Division under Article 3 of this
40 Chapter.

41 (2) It is not subject to inspection under 49 C.F.R. Part 396, the federal
42 Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

- 1 (3) It is not a trailer whose gross weight is less than 4,000 pounds or a
2 house trailer.
- 3 (b) Emissions. – A motor vehicle is subject to an emissions inspection in
4 accordance with this Part if it meets all of the following requirements:
- 5 (1) It is subject to registration with the Division under Article 3 of this
6 Chapter.
- 7 (2) It is not a trailer whose gross weight is less than 4,000 pounds, a house
8 trailer, or a motorcycle.
- 9 (3) It is a 1975 or later model.
- 10 ~~(4) It is powered or designed so that it could be powered by gasoline.~~
- 11 (5) It meets any of the following descriptions:
- 12 a. It is required to be registered in an emissions county.
- 13 b. It is part of a fleet that is operated primarily in an emissions
14 county.
- 15 c. It is offered for rent in an emissions county.
- 16 d. It is a used vehicle offered for sale by a dealer in an emissions
17 county.
- 18 e. It is operated on a federal installation located in an emissions
19 county and it is not a tactical military vehicle. Vehicles operated
20 on a federal installation include those that are owned or leased by
21 employees of the installation and are used to commute to the
22 installation and those owned or operated by the federal agency
23 that conducts business at the installation.
- 24 f. It is otherwise required by 40 C.F.R. Part 51 to be subject to an
25 emissions inspection.
- 26 (c) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Part:
- 27 (1) Emissions county. – A county ~~in which the State either is required by~~
28 ~~federal law to conduct emissions testing or has agreed in its State~~
29 ~~Implementation Plan submitted to the federal Environmental Protection~~
30 ~~Agency to conduct emissions testing. The State designated by the~~
31 ~~Environmental Management Commission establishes the emissions~~
32 ~~counties pursuant to rules adopted under G.S. 143-215.107(a)(6).~~
- 33 (2) Federal installation. – An installation that is owned by, leased to, or
34 otherwise regularly used as the place of business of a federal agency."
- 35 Section 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.