



HOUSE BILL 177: Clean Energy Transportation Act

2011-2012 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Commerce	Date:	June 5, 2012
Introduced by:	Reps. Samuelson, McElraft	Prepared by:	Jennifer Mundt
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H177-CSTA-4 [v.5]		Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 177 would:*

- *Create an interagency task force directed to study the feasibility and desirability of advancing the use of alternative fuels by local school administrative units and the development of associated fueling infrastructure.*
- *Direct the Department of Transportation to purchase new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton and $\frac{1}{2}$ ton pick-up trucks that operate on CNG or CNG and gasoline and evaluate other alternative fuel vehicles for the remainder of the Department's fleet of pickup trucks.*
- *Establish criteria for the operation of electric vehicle charging stations at State-owned rest stops along the highways.*
- *Amend the Energy Jobs Act of 2011 should it become law.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 177 would:

Section 1: Direct the State Energy Office in the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Departments of Administration and the Department of Public Instruction, and other agencies as applicable, to create an interagency task force responsible for studying the feasibility and desirability of advancing the use of alternative fuels by local school administrative units for school transportation purposes. As part of its study, the Task Force must perform a cost-benefit analysis on each alternative fuel and review the costs of associated fueling infrastructure necessary to support the operation and maintenance of the school buses that use the alternative fuels evaluated in the study. The Task Force must report the results of its study, including any recommendations, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy on or before December 1, 2012.

Section 2: direct the Department of Transportation to purchase new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton and $\frac{1}{2}$ ton pick-up trucks that operate on either CNG or CNG and gasoline by establishing a schedule for the purchase of CNG or bi-fuel pickup trucks. This section also directs the Department to evaluate alternative fuels and alternative fueled vehicles to replace the remaining pickup trucks in the Department's fleet

Section 3: establish the following criteria for the operation of electric vehicle charging stations at State-owned rest stops along the highways:

- The charging stations must be accessible by the public.
- The Department of Transportation must develop a mechanism to charge the user of the charging station a fee to recover the costs of the electricity consumed, processing fees, and operations and maintenance.

Section 4: amend the Energy Jobs Act of 2011 if it were to become law as follows:

- Directs the Governor to develop a regional strategy with the Governors of South Carolina and Virginia for the exploration, development, and production of commercially viable federal and

House PCS 177

Page 2

state offshore energy resources within the three-state region and report on the strategy to the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House.

- Amends some of the qualifications and the timeframe for appointments made to the Energy Jobs Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law.

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