

Senate Bill 44

Diesel Pollution Reduction

Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley)

BILL SUMMARY

SB 44 drives California toward ditching dirty diesel by directing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to plan for the phasing out, over time, of diesel-fueled medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and the transition to clean vehicle technologies.

ISSUE

Decades after California passed the Clean Air Act, diesel trucks continue to spew toxic air pollution into California's communities. Diesel-fueled trucks are responsible for 33 percent of statewide oxides of nitrogen (NoX) emissions annually, 20 percent of statewide GHG emissions, and emit more particulate matter than all of the state's power plants combined.

Since 1998, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has recognized particulate matter as a toxic air contaminant based on the relationship between diesel exhaust and lung cancer. California's air is particularly plagued with these pollutants – the state has 7 of the 10 geographic areas with the worst particulate matter pollution, according to the American Lung Association.

Additionally, particulate matter from diesel-fueled vehicles exacerbates asthma and other respiratory problems. Children are at particular risk, because they breathe faster than adults and therefore suffer from increased exposure to toxic air pollutants. Kids exposed to high levels of diesel exhaust are five times more likely than other children to have underdeveloped lungs.

SOLUTION

SB 44 seeks to dramatically cut diesel pollution in the state by:

- Requiring CARB to develop a plan for how the medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sectors can meet federal attainment goals for air quality, reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2030, and slash GHG emissions by 80% by 2050.
- Allow CARB to identify sectors that could move more quickly toward adopting clean medium- and heavy-duty vehicle technologies.
- Appropriate funds through 2025 to support the purchase of clean medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by businesses across California.

SUPPORT

CALSTART
Coalition for Clean Air
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

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