



S.B. 122

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. D. Miller, Cafaro, Boccieri, Morano, Mason, R. Miller

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Turnpike Commission to make available for sale to the public E85 blend fuel at service stations located on the Ohio Turnpike according to a schedule beginning July 1, 2008.
- Permits the Ohio Turnpike Commission to apply for and receive grants under the Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant program and permits grants under the program to be used to pay for the purchase and installation of alternative fuel pumps.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Sale of E85 blend fuel on the Ohio Turnpike

(R.C. 5537.29)

The bill requires the Ohio Turnpike Commission to make available for sale to the public E85 blend fuel at all service stations located on the Ohio Turnpike. E85 blend fuel is an "alternative fuel" because it is neither gasoline nor diesel fuel. Instead, it is a motor vehicle fuel consisting of at least 85% ethanol (a type of alcohol) and 15% gasoline (R.C. 125.831(E), not in the bill).¹ The Commission is required to make the fuel available for sale to the public at service stations according to the following schedule:

(1) Not later than July 1, 2008, E85 blend fuel must be available for sale from at least one pump at two or more service stations located on the eastbound side of the existing Ohio Turnpike and at two or more service stations located on the westbound side of the existing Ohio Turnpike.

¹ However, the ethanol percentage can be as low as 70% if the U.S. Department of Energy determines by rule that the lower percentage is necessary to provide for the requirements of cold start, safety, or vehicle functions.

(2) Not later than July 1, 2009, E85 blend fuel must be available for sale from at least one pump at service stations located on the eastbound side of the existing Ohio Turnpike and at service stations located on the westbound side of the Ohio Turnpike so that E85 blend fuel is available for sale at least approximately every 75 miles along the existing turnpike in both directions.

Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant program

(R.C. 122.075)

Under current law, the Director of Development administers the Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant program, the purpose of which is to improve Ohio's air quality. Under the program, the Director may make grants to businesses, nonprofit organizations, public school systems, or local governments for the purchase and installation of alternative fuel refueling or distribution facilities and terminals, for the purchase and use of alternative fuel, and to pay the costs of educational and promotional materials and activities intended for prospective alternative fuel consumers, fuel marketers, and others in order to increase the availability and use of alternative fuel.

Current law requires the Director of Development, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture, to adopt rules to administer the program. The rules must contain a requirement that the maximum grant for the purchase and installation of an alternative fuel refueling or distribution facility or terminal be 80% of the cost of the facility or terminal, except that at least 20% of the total net cost of the facility or terminal must be incurred by the grant recipient and not compensated for by any other source.

The bill makes the Ohio Turnpike Commission eligible to apply for and to receive grants under the program, and permits grants to be used to pay for the purchase and installation of alternative fuel pumps. Consistent with current law, the maximum grant for the purchase and installation of an alternative fuel pump is 80% of the cost of the pump, and at least 20% of the total net cost of such a pump must be incurred by the grant recipient and cannot be compensated for by any other source.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-20-07

S0122-I-127.doc/jc

