

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1767 Session of  
1989

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PHILLIPS, DISTLER, JAROLIN, TANGRETTI, McVERRY AND HESS,  
JUNE 27, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 27, 1989

AN ACT

1 Encouraging the use of alternative motor fuels; providing for  
2 acquisition of State-owned vehicles which operate on  
3 alternative motor fuels; providing for powers and duties of  
4 the Department of General Services and the Pennsylvania  
5 Energy Office; and establishing a State Government Task Force  
6 on Alternative Motor Fuels.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Alternative  
11 Motor Fuels Act.

12 Section 2. Legislative findings and declaration of policy.

13 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

14 (1) The achievement of long-term energy security is  
15 essential to a strong economy and the well-being of the  
16 Commonwealth's citizens.

17 (2) The displacement of energy derived from imported oil

1 with alternative fuels will help achieve energy security and  
2 improve air quality.

3 (3) Methanol, ethanol and natural gas are proven  
4 transportation fuels that can have lower emissions of  
5 undesirable pollutants than gasoline and diesel fuel;  
6 however, additional research is needed to identify actions to  
7 be taken to forestall effects of all fuels on global climate.

8 (4) By enacting the act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1213,  
9 No.280), entitled "An act amending the act of April 9, 1929  
10 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled 'An act providing for and  
11 reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative  
12 work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof  
13 and the administrative departments, boards, commissions, and  
14 officers thereof, including the boards of trustees of State  
15 Normal Schools, or Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating,  
16 reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain  
17 administrative departments, boards, and commissions; defining  
18 the powers and duties of the Governor and other executive and  
19 administrative officers, and of the several administrative  
20 departments, boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the  
21 salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain  
22 other executive and administrative officers; providing for  
23 the appointment of certain administrative officers, and of  
24 all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain  
25 departments, boards, and commissions; and prescribing the  
26 manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies  
27 and all other assistants and employes of certain departments,  
28 boards and commissions shall be determined,' requiring moneys  
29 received by criminals as a result of the commission of a  
30 crime to be paid to the Crime Victim's Compensation Board,

1 permitting certain research on State vehicles, and relating  
2 to emergency petroleum product shortages and energy  
3 development and making an appropriation," and the act of  
4 March 29, 1984 (P.L.154, No.29), entitled "An act permitting  
5 all State-owned vehicles to be converted to operate on  
6 natural gas; and requiring indications of dual systems," the  
7 General Assembly has recognized the desirability of using  
8 alternative motor fuels. However, these goals must be  
9 monitored and coordinated through an ongoing program to  
10 encourage the use of various alternative fuels in government,  
11 commercial and private vehicles in an environmentally  
12 acceptable manner.

13 (5) Through adoption of the Alternative Motor Fuels Act  
14 of 1988, (Public Law 100-494, 102 Stat. 2441), Congress has  
15 indicated support for the development and widespread use of  
16 methanol, ethanol and natural gas as transportation fuels and  
17 for the production of methanol, ethanol and natural gas  
18 powered motor vehicles.

19 (6) To fulfill its obligation to promote the health,  
20 safety and welfare of its citizens and to protect the  
21 environment, the Commonwealth would encourage the use of  
22 alternative fuels which will reduce emissions and dependence  
23 on energy derived from imported oil.

#### 24 Section 3. Definitions.

25 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
26 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
27 context clearly indicates otherwise:

28 "Acquire." To lease a vehicle for a period of 60 continuous  
29 days or longer or to purchase a vehicle.

30 "Alcohol." A mixture containing 85% or more by volume

1 methanol, ethanol or other alcohols in any combination.

2 "Alcohol powered vehicle." A vehicle designed to operate  
3 exclusively on alcohol.

4 "Department." The Department of General Services of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Dual fuel vehicle." A vehicle which is capable of operating  
7 on alcohol and on gasoline or diesel fuel.

8 "Natural gas dual fuel vehicle." A vehicle which is capable  
9 of operating on natural gas and on gasoline or diesel fuel.

10 "Natural gas powered vehicle." A vehicle designed to operate  
11 exclusively on natural gas.

12 "Task force." The State Government Task Force on Alternative  
13 Motor Fuels.

14 Section 4. Powers and duties of the Department of General  
15 Services.

16 (a) Commonwealth vehicles.--The Department of General  
17 Services, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Energy Office,  
18 shall ensure that the maximum number practicable of passenger  
19 automobiles and light duty trucks acquired annually for use by  
20 the Commonwealth are alcohol powered vehicles, alcohol dual fuel  
21 vehicles, natural gas powered vehicles or natural gas dual  
22 energy vehicles.

23 (b) Types of vehicles.--The department shall, to the extent  
24 practicable and consistent with this section, ensure that the  
25 number of alcohol dual fuel vehicles acquired under this section  
26 is at least as great as the number of alcohol powered vehicles,  
27 and that the number of natural gas dual fuel vehicles acquired  
28 under this section is at least as great as the number of natural  
29 gas powered vehicles acquired under this section. When acquiring  
30 alcohol powered vehicles and alcohol dual fuel vehicles, the

1 department shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that  
2 the number of vehicles powered by methanol derived in whole or  
3 in part from coal is at least as great as the number of vehicles  
4 powered by other methanol products, ethanol or other alcohols.  
5 To the maximum extent practicable, both vehicles capable of  
6 operating on alcohol and vehicles capable of operating on  
7 natural gas shall be acquired, and such vehicles shall be  
8 supplied by original equipment manufacturers.

9 (c) Study of vehicles.--The department, in cooperation with  
10 the Pennsylvania Energy Office and the Department of  
11 Transportation, shall conduct a study of the vehicles acquired  
12 under subsection (a) which, at a minimum, shall include the  
13 following:

14 (1) A comparison of the performance of the vehicles,  
15 including performance in cold weather and at high altitude to  
16 the performance in cold weather and at high altitude of other  
17 gasoline-fueled passenger automobiles and light duty trucks.

18 (2) A comparison of the fuel economy, safety and  
19 emissions of the vehicles to the fuel economy, safety and  
20 emissions of other gasoline-fueled passenger automobiles and  
21 light duty trucks.

22 (3) A comparison of the operation and maintenance costs  
23 of such vehicles to the operation and maintenance costs of  
24 other gasoline-fueled passenger automobiles and light duty  
25 trucks.

26 (4) An analysis of the total costs and benefits relating  
27 to vehicles operating on alternative fuels as compared to the  
28 costs and benefits relating to other gasoline-fueled  
29 passenger automobiles and light duty trucks.

30 (5) The status of current and prospective technologies

1 to control emissions resulting from use of certain  
2 alternative motor fuels.

3 (6) The advisability, feasibility and timing of the  
4 disposal of vehicles acquired under subsection (a).

5 (d) Report of results of study.--The department, in  
6 cooperation with the Pennsylvania Energy Office and the  
7 Department of Transportation, shall report upon the results of  
8 the study conducted under subsection (c) to the Conservation,  
9 State Government and Transportation Committees of the House of  
10 Representatives and to the Environmental Resources and Energy,  
11 State Government and Transportation Committees of the Senate  
12 within five years from the effective date of this act. The  
13 report shall include appropriate recommendations for future  
14 activities related to the Commonwealth's acquisition of vehicles  
15 which operate on alternative motor fuels.

16 (e) Requests for vehicles.--Upon the request of the head of  
17 any agency of this Commonwealth, the department shall, to the  
18 maximum extent practicable, ensure that the agency is provided  
19 with vehicles acquired under subsection (a), provided that the  
20 agency agrees to cooperate with studies undertaken pursuant to  
21 this section.

## 22 Section 5. Duties of the Pennsylvania Energy Office.

23 (a) Demonstration program.--The Pennsylvania Energy Office,  
24 in cooperation with manufacturers of heavy duty engines, any  
25 Pennsylvania college or university, and appropriate Federal and  
26 State agencies, may establish a commercial application  
27 demonstration program to study the use of alcohol and natural  
28 gas in heavy duty trucks and, if appropriate, other heavy duty  
29 applications.

30 (b) Testing program.--The Pennsylvania Energy Office,

1 pursuant to the Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988 (Public Law  
2 100-494, 102 Stat. 2441), shall cooperate with appropriate  
3 Federal, State and local government agencies in the testing in  
4 urban settings of transit buses capable of operating on alcohol  
5 and buses capable of operating on natural gas for emissions  
6 levels, durability, safety and fuel economy, comparing the  
7 different types with each other and with diesel powered transit  
8 buses, as such buses will be required to operate under Federal  
9 safety and environmental standards applicable to such buses for  
10 the model year 1991. To the extent practicable, testing under  
11 this subsection shall apply equally to transit buses capable of  
12 operating on alcohol and buses capable of operating on natural  
13 gas. The Pennsylvania Energy Office shall assist State and local  
14 government agencies, as necessary, to secure Federal and State  
15 funds which may be available to carry out the purposes of this  
16 subsection.

17 Section 6. State Government Task Force on Alternative Motor  
18 Fuels.

19 (a) Establishment.--There is established a State Government  
20 Task Force on Alternative Motor Fuels. The task force shall be  
21 composed of the Lieutenant Governor, as Chairman of the  
22 Pennsylvania Energy Office, or his designee, the Secretary of  
23 General Services, or his designee, the Secretary of  
24 Transportation, or his designee, the Secretary of Commerce, or  
25 his designee, the Secretary of Environmental Resources, or his  
26 designee, the Secretary of Agriculture, or his designee, the  
27 Secretary of Labor and Industry, or his designee, the Chairman  
28 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, or his designee,  
29 and four members of the General Assembly, or their designees,  
30 one appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, one by

1 the Minority Leader of the Senate, one by the Speaker of the  
2 House of Representatives and one by the Minority Leader of the  
3 House of Representatives.

4 (b) Operating procedures.--A majority of members shall  
5 constitute a quorum. Meetings of the task force shall be held at  
6 least semiannually or at the call of the chairperson, or at the  
7 request of at least five members of the task force. A  
8 chairperson shall be elected by a majority of members present at  
9 the first meeting of the task force which shall be called by the  
10 Lieutenant Governor within three months of the effective date of  
11 this act. A new chairperson shall be elected annually, and  
12 members of the task force shall serve terms concurrent with  
13 their terms in office.

14 (c) Duties.--The task force shall have the following duties:

15 (1) To coordinate efforts of State agencies with Federal  
16 programs to promote the use of alternative motor fuels.

17 (2) To provide for the exchange of information among  
18 individuals, private industry, public agencies and colleges  
19 and universities interested in the development and use of  
20 alternative motor fuels.

21 (3) To monitor and, to the maximum extent practicable,  
22 participate in the efforts of Federal agencies to develop a  
23 long-term plan for the commercialization of alcohols, natural  
24 gas and other potential alternative motor fuels.

25 (4) To provide comments on rules, regulations, policies  
26 and reports issued pursuant to the Alternative Motor Fuels  
27 Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-494, 102 Stat. 2441), or issued  
28 pursuant to the authority of other Federal, State or local  
29 agencies regarding alternative motor fuels.

30 (5) To appoint, as may be necessary, advisory groups



1 consisting of persons from the private sector, educational  
2 institutions, State agencies, local government agencies,  
3 environmental organizations and the general public who are  
4 knowledgeable about alternative motor fuels and their  
5 possible uses, the production and conversion of vehicles to  
6 use alternative motor fuels, or the development of  
7 technologies to reduce emissions associated with the use of  
8 alternative motor fuels. Appointments shall be made from  
9 names submitted to the chairperson, subject to approval by a  
10 majority of members of the task force. Advisory groups  
11 appointed pursuant to this subsection shall meet at the call  
12 of the chairperson of the task force.

13 (6) To submit an interim report to the Governor and the  
14 General Assembly, no later than January 1, 1993, setting  
15 forth actions taken by the task force pursuant to this  
16 section, together with appropriate recommendations for future  
17 activities relating to the use of alternative motor fuels in  
18 this Commonwealth.

19 (d) Staff and facilities.--The Pennsylvania Energy Office  
20 shall provide staff assistance and meeting facilities for the  
21 task force as needed.

22 Section 7. Repeals.

23 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are  
24 inconsistent with this act.

25 Section 8. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect immediately.