
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 161 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, HANBIDGE, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, HILL-
EVANS, VITALI, HERRIN AND N. NELSON, DECEMBER 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
DECEMBER 3, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the feasibility of establishing a low-emission and
3 zero-emission vehicle program in this Commonwealth and to
4 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the
5 Governor and the General Assembly.

6 WHEREAS, In 2020, Steve Sisolak, Governor of Nevada, directed
7 the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to develop and
8 adopt a process that would provide for the establishment of low-
9 emission vehicle and zero-emission vehicle requirements for
10 automakers; and

11 WHEREAS, The initiative, known as Clean Cars Nevada, was
12 developed as a means of providing residents of Nevada with a
13 greater number of choices when considering the purchase of low-
14 emission and zero-emission vehicles; and

15 WHEREAS, Clean Cars Nevada has been touted as being critical
16 to advancing a healthy, resilient and climate friendly future;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Under Clean Cars Nevada, low-emission vehicle
19 standards require that automakers provide new vehicle models

1 that emit fewer greenhouse gases and other air pollutants; and
2 WHEREAS, Under this initiative, automakers can implement
3 cost-effective technologies for gasoline-powered vehicles such
4 as improvements to engines and transmissions and the use of
5 light-weight materials in vehicle production; and

6 WHEREAS, Under Clean Cars Nevada, the zero-emission vehicle
7 program ensures that automakers annually deliver more vehicles
8 for sale in Nevada that achieve zero emissions by being
9 partially or fully electric thus providing consumers with
10 greater vehicle purchasing options; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to Nevada, 11 other states have adopted
12 a zero-emission vehicle program, which has increased the
13 availability of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle models at
14 dealerships; and

15 WHEREAS, Fossil fuel-powered vehicles emit many health-
16 threatening pollutants, such as benzene, carbon monoxide,
17 formaldehyde, organic compounds and nitrogen oxide; and

18 WHEREAS, These pollutants and particulate matter are
19 collectively linked to many adverse health effects such as
20 aggravated asthma, damage to the immune system, decreased lung
21 function, increased risk of cancer, inflammation of airways, as
22 well as developmental, neurological and reproductive health
23 issues; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to the increased health benefits of low-
25 emission and zero-emission vehicles, a recent study found that,
26 if purchased, the average consumer could expect to save \$6,000
27 to \$10,000 over the lifetime of the vehicles; and

28 WHEREAS, For those who finance the purchase of a low-emission
29 or zero-emission vehicle, monthly expenditures for a typical
30 six-year loan would be significantly lower; and

1 WHEREAS, The increased deployment of low-emission and zero-
2 emission vehicles would attract investments in charging
3 infrastructure thus creating additional jobs relative to the
4 installation and operation of charging stations and equipment;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Under Clean Cars Nevada, it was determined that
7 cleaner, more efficient vehicles would appeal to both urban and
8 rural drivers as both would experience significant savings on
9 fuel; and

10 WHEREAS, Since lower-income families tend to spend a larger
11 portion of their incomes on gasoline as compared to families
12 with higher-incomes, the reduced costs of fuel would likely have
13 a greater benefit on those with lower incomes; and

14 WHEREAS, Families with lower incomes disproportionately buy
15 used vehicles, so the adoption of a low-emission and zero-
16 emission vehicle program would likely increase the demand for
17 these vehicles within the used vehicle market; and

18 WHEREAS, Used vehicle buyers would also benefit from the same
19 fuel savings and reduced costs as new vehicle buyers, while
20 avoiding many of the up-front costs associated with improvements
21 in technology that are typically passed on to purchasers of new
22 vehicles; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
24 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the
25 feasibility of establishing a low-emission and zero-emission
26 vehicle program in the Commonwealth and to issue a report of its
27 findings and recommendations to the Governor and General
28 Assembly; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the study do the following:

30 (1) identify and examine efforts, procedures, measures,

1 statutes and management responsibilities of State agencies,
2 nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions to
3 assist in determining the feasibility of establishing a
4 Statewide low-emission and zero-emission vehicle program;

5 (2) conduct an economic impact analysis regarding the
6 widespread use of low-emission and zero-emission vehicles in
7 this Commonwealth;

8 (3) identify best practices in regard to developing the
9 necessary infrastructure to support the widespread use of
10 low-emission and zero-emission vehicles in this Commonwealth;
11 and

12 (4) identify financial mechanisms and options for
13 funding the development of a Statewide low-emission and zero-
14 emission vehicle program and related infrastructure in this
15 Commonwealth;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission consult
18 with organizations that:

19 (1) have organizational missions and expertise regarding
20 air quality, auto manufacturing, the economy, the
21 environment, health and safety, transportation and both rural
22 and urban affairs;

23 (2) collect data on the benefits that low-emission and
24 zero-emission vehicles may have in regard to air quality,
25 auto manufacturing, the economy, the environment, health and
26 safety, transportation, and both rural and urban affairs; and

27 (3) have knowledge of relevant issues;

28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
30 authorized to consult with states and organizations that have

1 knowledge of relevant issues; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
3 report of its findings and recommendations and submit the report
4 to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than 18 months
5 after the adoption of this resolution.