

New Jersey Diesel Legislation

Codey Signs Landmark Legislation to Protect Public Health

New Law Reducing Diesel Pollution Will Save Lives and Lower Health Care Costs

(September 7, 2005, TRENTON, New Jersey)

New Law Signed. Acting Governor Richard J. Codey today signed landmark legislation to cut exposure to harmful diesel emissions from school buses, garbage trucks, transit buses and publicly owned diesel vehicles. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to place diesel emission controls on all public and privately owned transit buses and garbage trucks.

Program Financing. On Election Day on November 8, voters will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment that would fund the diesel reduction program by reallocating revenue already generated by the state's Corporate Business Tax. The program would reimburse fleet owners for 100 percent of the cost of installing the emission-reducing equipment over the next 10 years. The diesel program outlined in the bill signed today is contingent upon voter approval of Ballot Question No. 2 on Election Day.

Targeting School Buses. Under the new law, diesel-powered school buses would be fitted with closed crankcase technology in their engines to prevent diesel exhaust from seeping into the cabin and threatening the health of New Jersey's school children. At the same time, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will undertake a study to determine if emissions from the bus tailpipe are affecting the air quality inside the school bus. If the study shows that a reduction in tailpipe emissions will lower the health risks to children, DEP would require emission controls on tailpipes as well as crankcases.

Other Publicly Owned Vehicles. In addition to school buses, the diesel retrofit program would fund the installation of particulate traps and other emissions-control devices in the tailpipes of garbage trucks, transit buses and publicly owned on-road and off-road diesel vehicles and equipment.

Idling Enforcement Authority. The new law extends the authority to enforce existing idling laws to local police. New Jersey law already prohibits the idling of diesel vehicles for more than three minutes.

Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel. Today's bill also expands the requirements pertaining to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel. Reducing sulfur in diesel fuel directly reduces emissions of fine particles, and also makes it possible to use air pollution technologies that cut emissions even further.

Excerpts taken from: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/governor/njnewsline>