

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 216

S. P. 103

In Senate, January 13, 1981

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator O'Leary of Oxford.

Cosponsor: Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Adopt a Lead Emission Standard under the Laws for Protection and Improvement of Air.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

38 MRSA § 584-A, sub-§ 7 is enacted to read:

7. Lead. The maximum 24-hour lead concentration at any location shall be 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter, which standard may be exceeded once per year.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Existing statutes require legislative review and enactment of all ambient air quality standards and air emission standards after adoption by the Board of Environmental Protection. This bill provides for legislative review and enactment of an ambient air quality standard for the air pollutant - lead (Pb).

Lead is a dangerous, heavy metal that accumulates in the body and affects the nervous system. Children are the most susceptible to suffering from lead in the environment. Measurements of the ambient air indicate the lead levels are well below the standard adopted by the board and proposed in this bill. The primary

source of lead in Maine is that put in gasoline for cars. This then comes out of automobile tailpipes and accumulates along the road. As the older vehicles in Maine are replaced with new ones using unleaded gasoline the lead emissions and levels should decrease.