

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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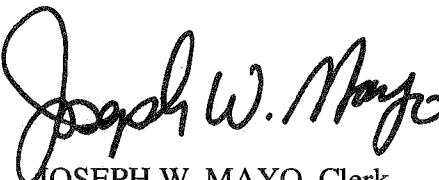
House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

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**An Act to Encourage the Use of Motor Vehicles That Use Alternative Sources of Fuel for the Purpose of Reducing Air Pollution.**

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Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development and the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 308.3.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and  
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, KONTOS of Windham, WINGLASS of Auburn,  
Senators: CLEVELAND of Androscoggin, HARRIMAN of Cumberland.

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 5 MRSA c. 383, sub-c. V-A is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER V-A

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

§13105. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Development  
Project

1. Establishment. The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Development Project is established to reduce the air pollution emissions generated by motor vehicles in the State by developing alternative fuel vehicles and the infrastructure required to support the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

2. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Alternative fuel vehicle" has the same meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

B. "Associated equipment" means that equipment necessary for regeneration, refueling or recharging of batteries or other forms of energy used to power an alternative fuel vehicle.

C. "Infrastructure" includes support and maintenance services and facilities, fuel delivery mechanisms and methods, regulatory treatment of investment in alternative fuel vehicles and associated equipment, consumer education programs, safety and health procedures and programs addressing battery and fuel cell availability, replacement, recycling and disposal that may be required to enable utilities, automobile manufacturers and others to support the operation and maintenance of an alternative fuel vehicle and associated equipment.

D. "Joint venture" means a venture between the State or an agency or instrumentality of State Government and a nonstate entity including but not limited to:

(1) A for-profit business;

(2) A private foundation;

2                   (3) A nonprofit organization, such as a university;

4                   (4) A trade or professional society; or

6                   (5) A unit of local government.

8                   3. Authorization. No later than one year after funds are  
10 appropriated for the purposes described in this section, the  
12 department shall select 5 different proposals submitted by joint  
14 ventures for conducting infrastructure demonstration programs.

16                   4. Scope. The infrastructure demonstration programs  
18 conducted pursuant to subsection 3 may address the following:

20                   A. The equipping of existing facilities, such as gasoline  
22 stations, automobile dealerships and automobile repair  
24 centers, with the ability to service alternative fuel  
26 vehicles and to provide or service associated equipment;

28                   B. The installing of charging facilities at private  
30 residences, businesses, public buildings, airports, shopping  
32 malls, recreation areas or other areas where the service may  
34 be required for the use of alternative fuel vehicles;

36                   C. The designing of rate structures, rate levels,  
38 rate-making procedures, billing systems and financing  
40 methods to encourage investment by utilities in  
42 infrastructure capital-related expenditures;

44                   D. The conducting of information dissemination and public  
46 education programs to inform the public about alternative  
48 fuel vehicles;

E. The developing of safety and health procedures and  
                  guidelines related to:

(1) Charging and refueling equipment and procedures;

(2) Safety systems for battery gas emissions,  
                  including ventilation at parking facilities; and

(3) Battery watering; and

F. Other requirements the department considers necessary in  
                  order to address the infrastructure needed to support  
                  alternative fuel vehicles.

2       5. Costs. The department shall require at least 50% of the  
costs directly and specifically related to a selected proposal to  
be provided from nonstate sources.

4  
6       6. Fund sources. Funds are authorized to be appropriated  
as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Alternative Fuel  
Vehicle Infrastructure Development Project.

8           Sec. A-2. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. V-B is enacted to read:

10                                   SUBCHAPTER V-B

12                                   ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

14           §1099-C. Definitions

16           As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise  
18           indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

20           1. Alternative fuel vehicle. "Alternative fuel vehicle"  
has the same meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

22           2. Default reserve fund. "Default reserve fund" means a  
24           fund established by the authority for the purpose of securing  
loans.

26           3. Program. "Program" means the Alternative Fuel Vehicle  
28           Loan Guarantee Program established in this subchapter.

30           §1099-D. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Loan Guarantee Program

32           1. Program established. The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Loan  
Guarantee Program is established and is administered by the  
34           authority. The program guarantees the payment of principal and  
interest on loans made to operators of vehicle fleets within the  
36           State for the acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles and to  
businesses for the acquisition of capital equipment necessary to  
38           establish alternative fuel vehicle support and maintenance  
facilities.

40           2. Guarantee fee. A recipient of a loan guarantee from the  
42           State must pay a guarantee fee equal to 10% of the loan principal  
amount. Guarantee fees are deposited in a default reserve fund  
44           maintained by the authority. If at any time the default reserve  
fund contains less than 10% of the total principal value of  
46           guaranteed loans outstanding, the authority to issue loan  
guarantees is suspended.

2 3. Sources of funding. Money that is necessary for  
administrative costs associated with the establishment of the  
4 program may be appropriated.

6 Sec. A-3. 24-A MRS §2303-B is enacted to read:

8 §2303-B. Alternative fuel vehicle

10 1. Bureau determination required. An insurer may not  
surcharge a motor vehicle insurance policy for an alternative  
12 fuel vehicle until actuarial data to support the surcharge is  
developed and made available for examination by the Bureau of  
14 Insurance and the bureau determines that the surcharge is  
appropriate.

16 2. Basis for determination. The bureau shall determine  
appropriateness of the surcharge based on the following factors:

18 A. New technology;

20 B. Passenger payload;

22 C. Weight to horsepower ratio; and

24 D. Types of material.

26 Sec. A-4. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

28 2-A. Alternative fuel vehicle. "Alternative fuel vehicle"  
30 means a vehicle primarily powered by an engine other than a  
gasoline-powered internal combustion engine. "Alternative fuel  
32 vehicle" includes, but is not limited to, a vehicle powered by an  
electric motor that draws current from rechargeable storage  
34 batteries, fuel cells of hydrogen or other fuel or other sources  
of electrical current and that may include a nonelectrical source  
36 of supplemental power; a vehicle powered by compressed natural  
gas; or a vehicle powered by a dynamic flywheel.

38 Sec. A-5. 29-A MRS §354 is enacted to read:

40 §354. Alternative fuel vehicle; registration

42 The Secretary of State shall establish and adopt procedures  
44 for the registration of an alternative fuel vehicle.

46 Sec. A-6. 29-A MRS §409, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

48 7. Exemption. Alternative fuel vehicles are exempt from  
50 this section.

2           Sec. A-7. 29-A MRSA §460-A is enacted to read:

4           §460-A. Alternative fuel vehicle registration plate

6           The Secretary of State shall establish and issue a special registration plate to designate that the vehicle is an alternative fuel vehicle.

8           Sec. A-8. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

10           11. Alternative fuel vehicles. For a period of 10 years from the effective date of this subsection, the registration fee and any other fees associated with the registration of an alternative fuel vehicle, including the fees associated with the issuance of a registration plate pursuant to section 460-A, are waived.

12           Sec. A-9. 29-A MRSA §2069-A is enacted to read:

14           §2069-A. Alternative fuel vehicle exempt from parking fees

16           A vehicle that displays an alternative fuel registration plate is exempt from paying parking fees, including those collected through parking meters, charged by a governmental authority other than a branch of the Federal Government.

18           Sec. A-10. 35-A MRSA §713 is enacted to read:

20           §713. Alternative fuel vehicle program

22           1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

24           A. "Alternative fuel vehicle" has the same meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

26           B. "Alternative fuel vehicle program" means a program through which a utility provides or assists in providing one or more of the following:

28                   (1) Alternative fuel vehicle recharging or refueling facilities or other necessary infrastructure development;

30                   (2) Other equipment or facilities necessary to deliver fuel or recharging to the alternative fuel vehicle; or

32                   (3) Alternative fuel vehicles and components and equipment of such vehicles through purchase or lease or

2                   contribution to a customer's cost of purchase, lease or  
3                   operation of an alternative fuel vehicle.

4                   2. Alternative fuel vehicle programs; standard  
5                   determination. The commission, with respect to each electric and  
6                   natural gas utility for which the commission has rate-making  
7                   authority, and each nonregulated electric utility in areas  
8                   subject to low-emission vehicle sales mandates under Title 38,  
9                   section 585-D, shall consider the standards for alternative fuel  
10                   vehicle programs established in subsection 4 and determine  
11                   whether or not it is appropriate to implement such a standard to  
12                   carry out the purposes of this section. Nothing in this section  
13                   prohibits the state regulatory authority or the nonregulated  
14                   electric utility from making a determination that it is not  
15                   appropriate to implement any such standard, pursuant to its  
16                   authority under otherwise applicable state law.

17                   3. Recover cost of program. An electric or natural gas  
18                   utility that provides an alternative fuel vehicle program to its  
19                   consumers is entitled to recover the costs of that program in its  
20                   rates if the commission, with respect to a utility for which it  
21                   has rate-making authority, or the nonregulated utility determines  
22                   that the program is practicable, cost-effective and beneficial to  
23                   consumers.

24                   4. Program requirements. In making the determination  
25                   required under subsection 2 with respect to the standard for  
26                   alternative fuel vehicle programs defined by subsection 1, an  
27                   alternative fuel vehicle program must be determined by the  
28                   commission in the case of a utility for which it has rate-making  
29                   authority or by a nonregulated electric utility to have met the  
30                   requirements of this section if:

31                   A. The program may:

32                   (1) Result in more efficient utilization of existing  
33                   electric generation facilities of the utility; or

34                   (2) Decrease the utility's air pollution control  
35                   costs under the state or federal air pollution control  
36                   programs through offsets, credits or otherwise; and

37                   B. The long-term benefits to the utility from more  
38                   efficient utilization of existing electric generation  
39                   facilities or reduction in air pollution control costs are  
40                   likely to exceed the long-term costs to the utility  
41                   associated with implementation of the program.

42                   Paragraphs A and B do not apply to a natural gas utility.



2           **5. Limit authority.** This section does not limit the  
3 authority of the commission to recover the costs of an  
4 alternative fuel vehicle program.

6           **Sec. A-11. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§14,** as amended by PL 1995, c.  
7 12, §2 and affected by §4, is further amended to read:

8           **14. Antique and experimental aircraft.** Antique and  
9 experimental aircraft as defined in Title 6, section 3,  
10 subsections 10-A and 18-E and registered according to the  
11 provisions of Title 6; and

12           **Sec. A-12. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§15,** as enacted by PL 1995, c.  
13 12, §3 and affected §4, is amended to read:

14           **15. Adaptive equipment.** Adaptive equipment installed on a  
15 motor vehicle owned by a disabled person or the family of a  
16 disabled person to make that vehicle operable or accessible by a  
17 disabled person; and

18           **Sec. A-13. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§16** is enacted to read:

19           **16. Alternative fuel vehicle.** An alternative fuel vehicle,  
20 as defined in Title 29-A, section 101.

21 This subsection is repealed January 1, 2008.

22           **Sec. A-14. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§78** is enacted to read:

23           **78. Alternative fuel vehicles.** The sale of alternative  
24 fuel vehicles operated in the State. Alternative fuel vehicle  
25 has the same meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

26 This subsection is repealed January 1, 2008.

27           **Sec. A-15. 36 MRSA §5219-L** is enacted to read:

28           **§5219-L. Alternative fuel vehicle tax credit**

29           **1. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context  
30 otherwise indicates, "alternative fuel vehicle" has the same  
31 meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

32           **2. Credit allowed.** A taxpayer is allowed a credit against  
33 the tax imposed by this Part in an amount equal to the qualifying  
34 percentage of expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer for:

35           **A.** The purchase and installation of equipment used in an  
36 automobile dealership pursuant to Title 29-A, section 851,

2 subsection 2 for the purpose of servicing and maintaining an  
3 alternative fuel vehicle; and

4 B. The cost of purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle when  
5 the amount of any credit provided in this section exceeds  
6 the amount of tax otherwise payable in the income year the  
7 expenditure was paid or incurred. The balance of any credit  
8 remaining may be taken in any of 3 succeeding income years.

10 3. Qualifying percentage. For purposes of calculating the  
11 credit under subsection 2, the qualifying percentage is:

12 A. Ten percent of expenditures made by a taxpayer in income  
13 years January 1, 2000 to January 1, 2003;

14 B. Seven and 1/2 percent of expenditures made by a taxpayer  
15 in income years January 1, 2001 to January 1, 2003;

16 C. Five percent of expenditures made by a taxpayer in  
17 income years January 1, 2003 to January 1, 2005; and

18 D. Two and 1/2 percent of expenditures made by a taxpayer  
19 in the income year starting January 1, 2005.

20 A credit is not allowed for expenditures made after December 31,  
21 2005.

22 Sec. A-16. 38 MRSA c. 30 is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 30

24 ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES

25 §2501. Short title

26 This chapter may be known and cited as the "Alternative Fuel  
27 Vehicle Incentives Act of 1997."

28 §2502. Definitions

29 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
30 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

31 1. Alternative fuel vehicle. "Alternative fuel vehicle"  
32 has the same meaning as set out in Title 29-A, section 101.

33 2. Dealer. "Dealer" means a person who, in the preceding  
34 12-month period, obtained greater than 50% of that person's gross  
35 income from the sale or lease of new or used passenger cars or  
36 light-duty trucks.

2           3. Light-duty truck. "Light-duty truck" means a motor  
4           vehicle rated at 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or less that  
5           is designed primarily for transportation of property or is  
6           available with special features enabling off-street or  
7           off-highway operation and use.

8           4. Model year. "Model year" means the manufacturer's  
9           annual production period for each engine family that includes  
10           January 1st of a calendar year or, if the manufacturer has no  
11           annual production period, the calendar year. For a motor vehicle  
12           manufactured in 2 or more stages, the time of manufacture is the  
13           date of completion of the chassis.

14           5. New motor vehicle. "New motor vehicle" means a 2000 or  
15           subsequent model year vehicle for which the title has never been  
16           transferred to the ultimate purchaser.

17           6. Passenger car. "Passenger car" means a motor vehicle  
18           designed for transporting human beings and having a design  
19           capacity of 12 or fewer individuals.

20           7. Program. "Program" means the Market-based Motor Vehicle  
21           Emissions Reduction Program, established in section 2504.

22           8. Ultimate purchaser. "Ultimate purchaser," with respect  
23           to a new motor vehicle or new motor vehicle engine, means the  
24           first person who in good faith purchases a new motor vehicle or  
25           new motor vehicle engine for purposes other than resale.

26           9. Zero-emissions vehicle. "Zero-emissions vehicle" means  
27           a passenger car or light-duty truck that produces zero emissions  
28           under any operation conditions.

29           §2503. Adoption of rules

30           By January 1, 1998, the department shall develop and adopt  
31           rules to implement this chapter.

32           §2504. Program established; requirements

33           1. Market-based Motor Vehicle Emissions Reduction Program.  
34           There is established the Market-based Motor Vehicle Emissions  
35           Reduction Program, which sets fees and rebates on the purchase of  
36           new passenger cars and light-duty trucks to give a financial  
37           incentive for consumers to buy and manufacturers to produce and  
38           certify vehicles that are less polluting than the law requires.

39           2. Schedule of program fees and rebates. The department  
40           shall develop by rule a schedule of program fees and rebates to

2 be applied at the point of sale, lease or rental of a new  
4 passenger car or light-duty truck in the State. Rules adopted  
6 under this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5,  
8 chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

10 3. Emissions standards. The fee or rebate must be based on  
12 each model's emission standard, as established by the board, for  
14 volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.  
16 Additionally, a fee or rebate must be assessed based on each  
18 model's carbon dioxide emission.

20 §2505. Emission fee and rebate account

22 1. Account established. There is established an emission  
24 fee and rebate account in the General Fund, known in this section  
26 as the "account."

28 2. Fund sources. All funds derived from emission fees  
30 under this chapter must be credited to the account. All rebates  
32 to be paid as a result of this chapter must be debited from the  
34 account.

36 3. Account to have positive balance. The department, in  
38 cooperation with the Department of Professional and Financial  
40 Regulation, shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the  
42 account has a positive balance at the end of each fiscal year.

44 4. Administrative expenses. Administrative expenses must  
46 be deducted from the account.

48 A. Rebates must be reduced by 30% to allow for  
50 administrative expenses associated with the account.

B. The administrative amount withheld from the rebate may  
be used to ensure a positive balance in the account.

C. The percentage retained for administrative purposes  
under paragraph A may be adjusted as necessary by the  
department to ensure the maximum rebate level possible while  
maintaining a positive balance in the account.

5. Distribution of rebates; collection of fees.  
Distribution of rebates and collection of fees must be handled as  
follows.

A. On a monthly basis, motor vehicle dealers shall make  
available to the responsible state agency the sales data for  
the previous month that are necessary to track the purchase  
of new motor vehicles. The information must include, but is  
not limited to, the following:

2           (1) The make and model of each new motor vehicle sold,  
rented or leased in the previous month;

4           (2) The name, address and phone number of each  
purchaser and the make and model of the vehicle  
6           purchased; and

8           (3) The estimated fee or rebate listed on the  
automobile's sticker pursuant to section 2507.

10           B. Upon receipt of the previous month's sales data, the  
department shall mail to each new motor vehicle purchaser a  
12           bill or rebate depending on the vehicle purchased.

14           C. A rebate under paragraph B may be delayed by the  
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation until  
16           enough fees are collected to generate sufficient revenue to  
administer the program and mail out rebates.  
18

20           **§2506. Notification requirement**

22           1. Annual publication of model-by-model fees and rebates.  
As soon as possible, but not later than May 1st of each year, the  
24           department shall set the schedule of fees and rebates for the  
upcoming model year vehicles. This schedule must be sent to all  
26           dealers of new motor vehicles in the State.

28           2. Public information requirements. The department shall  
conduct a public information campaign to make new car consumers  
30           aware of the program requirements.

32           **§2507. Labeling**

34           1. Colored sticker. Each new motor vehicle sold in  
accordance with this program in this State must bear a colored  
36           sticker explaining the program and listing the vehicle's program  
fee or rebate.  
38

40           2. Sticker size. The sticker under subsection 1 may not be  
smaller than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches.

42           3. Placed in plain view. The sticker must be placed in  
plain view of consumers.  
44

46           **§2508. Enforcement**

48           1. Inspection. The department shall periodically inspect  
dealers of new motor vehicles to ensure that the dealers are  
50           complying with this chapter.



2 applicable to new or existing stationary sources. The study must  
address the following:

4 1. Any necessary changes to state law or to state, regional  
6 or local rules or ordinances governing emissions from stationary  
or mobile sources in order to permit the use of emissions  
8 reductions from mobile sources as offsets for stationary source  
emissions reductions requirements;

10 2. The methodology by which emissions reductions from  
mobile sources can be measured and the degree to which, as well  
12 as the means by which, the reductions are measurable and  
permanent and constitute an enforceable reduction in emissions  
14 below an established baseline;

16 3. How to implement a voluntary program for scrapping  
existing motor vehicles that contribute significantly to air  
18 pollution and how such a program might be conducted in  
conjunction with programs to encourage the use of alternative  
20 fuel vehicles;

22 4. The development of a program enabling the Department of  
Environmental Protection to monitor the pollutant reductions and  
24 to identify the party or parties to be credited with creating or  
controlling the pollutant reductions or utilizing the pollutant  
26 reductions as offsets for stationary source emissions; and

28 5. Other matters the Department of Environmental Protection  
considers necessary in order to ensure the establishment of a  
30 program to permit the use of mobile source emission reductions as  
offsets for emissions control requirements of stationary sources.  
32

**Sec. B-2. Report.** The Department of Environmental Protection  
34 shall submit a report, together with recommendations for  
legislation, to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1,  
36 1997.

## 38 PART C

40 **Sec. C-1. Department of Economic and Community Development to  
create a comprehensive alternative fuel vehicle plan.** The Department of  
42 Economic and Community Development shall develop a comprehensive  
state alternative fuel vehicle plan in cooperation with county,  
44 regional and city governments, the State's public and private  
utilities, the private business sector and the environmental  
46 community. To the extent practicable, this comprehensive plan  
must be consistent with, but is not limited to, the criteria for  
48 similar efforts contained in any federal loan, grant or  
matching-fund projects. The comprehensive plan must seek to  
50 maximize the State's use of private and federal

2 programs, loans and matching funds available to states for  
alternative fuel vehicle development and demonstration programs  
4 and infrastructure development projects. The comprehensive  
alternative fuel vehicle plan to be prepared must address, but is  
not limited to, the following:

6  
1. The availability of electricity and compressed natural  
8 gas required to operate alternative fuel vehicles on the roads  
and highways of the State;

10  
2. Provisions designed to result in scheduled progress  
12 toward and achievement of the goal of introducing substantial  
numbers of alternative fuel vehicles in the State by the year  
14 2002; and

16  
3. A detailed description of the requirements, including  
the estimated cost of implementation, of the comprehensive state  
18 alternative fuel vehicle plan.

20 **Sec. C-2. Coordination with federal and local government entities.**

The comprehensive state alternative fuel vehicle plan must also  
22 describe the manner in which coordination can be achieved with  
federal and local government entities in implementing the plan  
24 and must include recommendations relating to the following:

26  
1. Exemption from state and local taxes imposed on the  
purchase or operation of motor vehicles;

28  
2. The introduction of alternative fuel vehicles into the  
30 state-owned or state-operated vehicle fleets and local government  
fleets;

32  
3. Special parking at public buildings, airports and  
34 transportation facilities;

36  
4. Programs for on-street preferential parking, including  
the designation of a certain percentage of preferential parking  
38 spaces in areas of high-density parking;

40  
5. Examination of the need to incorporate requirements into  
state and local building codes that require new building  
42 construction to accommodate and support alternative fuel vehicle  
use through the provision of charging facilities and other  
44 services;

46  
6. Programs of public education to promote the use of  
alternative fuel vehicles;

48



2 7. Education programs designed to address the proper  
4 garaging and safe charging of alternative fuel vehicles and  
training of personnel for the operation and maintenance of those  
vehicles;

6 8. Encouragement of state agencies to examine the treatment  
8 of sales of electricity for use in alternative fuel vehicles;

10 9. Methods by which the State Government and local  
12 governments might facilitate the availability of electricity and  
the ability to recharge alternative fuel vehicles at public  
locations;

14 10. Any other programs and incentives the comprehensive  
16 state alternative fuel vehicle plan may include; and

18 11. Whether accomplishing any of these recommendations  
20 would require amendment to state law or rules and the estimated  
cost, if any, of implementing the entire plan or any portion of  
the plan.

22 **Sec. C-3. Report.** A report and all required legislation,  
24 including recommendations and timetables to implement the plan,  
must be submitted by the Department of Economic and Community  
26 Development to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1,  
1997.

28  
30 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill authorizes the Department of Economic and  
Community Development to select 5 different joint venture  
34 proposals for the purpose of conducting demonstration programs to  
develop infrastructure to support the use of alternative fuel  
vehicles.

36 The bill establishes a program administered by the Finance  
38 Authority of Maine to guarantee loans made to operators of  
vehicle fleets and to businesses for the acquisition of capital  
40 equipment necessary to establish alternative fuel vehicle support  
and maintenance facilities.

42 The bill also prohibits an insurer from assessing a  
44 surcharge on a motor vehicle insurance policy for an alternative  
fuel vehicle until actuarial data to support the surcharge is  
46 developed.

48 The bill exempts alternative fuel vehicles from sales and  
50 use taxes and personal property taxes.

2           The bill directs the Secretary of State to establish  
procedures for the registration of an alternative fuel vehicle  
and to issue a special registration plate.

4

6           The bill exempts alternative fuel vehicles from parking fees  
and registration fees.

8           The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to  
establish alternative fuel vehicle programs that will entitle  
10 electric or natural gas utilities to recover costs if they  
provide alternative fuel vehicle programs to their customers.

12

14           The bill also allows a taxpayer a credit against income tax  
under certain circumstances relating to alternative fuel vehicles.

16           The bill creates the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentives Act  
of 1997.

18

20           The bill, in Part B, directs the Department of Environmental  
Protection to study procedures and to implement a program to  
measure emissions reductions produced by the voluntary operation  
22 of vehicles powered by nongasoline fuels and to provide methods  
by which the emissions reductions would reflect in credits.

24

26           The bill, in Part C, directs the Department of Economic and  
Community Development to create a comprehensive alternative fuel  
vehicle plan.