

Introduced by Senator Lieu

June 10, 2014

Senate Joint Resolution No. 29—Relative to natural gas vehicle fuel standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 29, as introduced, Lieu. Natural gas vehicle fuel standards.

This measure would urge any official of the State of California involved with the National Conference on Weights and Measures and acting in his or her official capacity to strongly support the natural gas vehicle fuel standards recommended by the Natural Gas Steering Committee of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. The measure would also urge the United States Department of Commerce, the National Conference on Weights and Measures, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with the natural gas industry to develop natural gas vehicle fuel standards that are user and consumer friendly and that include recognition of the gasoline and diesel gallon equivalent units for dispensing natural gas.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution reserves to the
- 2 states the right to regulate commerce and the weights and measures
- 3 system within their borders; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 1905, the National Bureau on Standards called
- 5 for a meeting of the states to discuss the lack of uniform standards
- 6 for weights and measurement in the United States that was
- 7 crippling economic growth; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1906, participating states met again, which
2 marked the birth of the National Conference on Weights and
3 Measures; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Conference on Weights and Measures
5 has evolved into a not-for-profit corporation that ensures national
6 standards keep pace with evolving technology and marketing
7 practices; and

8 WHEREAS, Natural gas vehicles and infrastructure continues
9 to develop in the State of California, and more largely, in the
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Natural gas is the cleanest burning alternative
12 transportation fuel commercially available today; and

13 WHEREAS, Natural gas vehicles emit 20 to 30 percent less
14 greenhouse gases than their diesel and gasoline counterparts; and

15 WHEREAS, The utilization of natural gas as a motor vehicle
16 fuel has seen a massive increase over the past five years due to
17 stable and affordable pricing; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of California provides incentives to
19 encourage the development and deployment of natural gas vehicles
20 and fueling stations in the state; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1999, 2010, and 2013, the Legislature enacted
22 laws designed to encourage growth in purchases of natural gas
23 vehicles by authorizing decals that allow natural gas vehicles to
24 use carpool lanes.

25 WHEREAS, New networks of natural gas vehicles and fueling
26 stations are being established around the country and within the
27 State of California; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1994, the National Conference on Weights and
29 Measures established the gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) as the
30 official unit of sale for compressed natural gas (CNG); and

31 WHEREAS, The GGE is a consumer friendly unit of
32 measurement because it represents the amount of CNG that has
33 the same energy content as a gallon of gasoline; and

34 WHEREAS, The GGE standard puts CNG in a unit that is
35 familiar to consumers and allows consumers to evaluate the cost
36 between CNG and traditional motor vehicle fuels; and

37 WHEREAS, Since 2011, an increasing number of long-haul
38 trucking companies have begun converting their fuel source to
39 liquefied natural gas (LNG); and

1 WHEREAS, By the end of 2014, there is expected to be a
2 nationwide network of LNG refueling stations; and

3 WHEREAS, Because LNG only displaces diesel as a motor
4 vehicle fuel, it is sold on a diesel gallon equivalent (DGE); and

5 WHEREAS, The Clean Vehicle Education Foundation, in
6 conjunction with the natural gas vehicle industry, submitted a
7 request to the National Conference on Weights and Measures in
8 2013 to adopt a standard definition of a DGE; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 19, 2014, the National Conference on
10 Weights and Measures announced that its Natural Gas Steering
11 Committee recommended that natural gas be sold in terms of
12 gasoline and diesel gallon equivalents as opposed to units of mass,
13 either pounds or kilograms; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Standards and Technology
15 publishes the standards adopted by the National Conference on
16 Weights and Measures; and

17 WHEREAS, California is one of 44 states that automatically
18 adopt the standards published by the National Institute of Standards
19 and Technology; and

20 WHEREAS, The National Conference on Weights and Measures
21 is scheduled to vote on the recommended natural gas vehicle fuel
22 standards at its annual meeting in July of 2014; now, therefore, be
23 it

24 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
25 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature strongly supports the
26 natural gas vehicle fuel standards recommended by the Natural
27 Gas Steering Committee of the National Conference on Weights
28 and Measures; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges any official of the State of
30 California involved with the National Conference on Weights and
31 Measures and acting in his or her official capacity to strongly
32 support the natural gas vehicle fuel standards recommended by
33 the Natural Gas Steering Committee of the National Conference
34 and Weights and Measures; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the United States
36 Department of Commerce, the National Conference on Weights
37 and Measures, and the National Institute of Standards and
38 Technology to work with the natural gas industry to develop natural
39 gas vehicle fuel standards that are user and consumer friendly and

1 that include recognition of the gasoline and diesel gallon equivalent
2 units for dispensing natural gas; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
4 this resolution to the Governor of California, to the Secretary of
5 Food and Agriculture, to the United States Secretary of Commerce,
6 to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and
7 Technology, to the Executive Director of the National Conference
8 on Weights and Measures, and to the author for appropriate
9 distribution.

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