

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1836**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Fletcher**

February 22, 2012

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An act to amend Section 44274 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to vehicular air pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1836, as introduced, Fletcher. Air Quality Improvement Program.

Existing law establishes the Air Quality Improvement Program, administered by the State Air Resources Board, to fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, air quality improvement projects related to fuel and vehicle technologies.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 44274 of the Health and Safety Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 44274. (a) The Air Quality Improvement Program is hereby
- 4 created. The program shall be administered by the state board, in
- 5 consultation with the districts. The state board shall develop
- 6 guidelines to implement the program. Prior to the adoption of the
- 7 guidelines, the state board shall hold at least one public hearing.
- 8 In addition, the state board shall hold at least three public
- 9 workshops with at least one workshop in northern California, one

1 in the central valley, and one in southern California. The purpose  
2 of the program shall be to fund, upon appropriation by the  
3 Legislature, air quality improvement projects relating to fuel and  
4 vehicle technologies. The primary purpose of the program shall  
5 be to fund projects to reduce criteria air pollutants, improve air  
6 quality, and provide funding for research to determine and improve  
7 the air quality impacts of alternative transportation fuels and  
8 vehicles, vessels, and equipment technologies.

9 (b) Projects proposed for funding pursuant to subdivision (a)  
10 shall be evaluated based on their proposed or potential reduction  
11 of criteria or toxic air pollutants, cost-effectiveness, contribution  
12 to regional air quality improvement, and ability to promote the use  
13 of clean alternative fuels and vehicle technologies as determined  
14 by the state board, in coordination with the commission.

15 (c) The program shall be limited to competitive grants, revolving  
16 loans, loan guarantees, loans, and other appropriate funding  
17 measures that further the purposes of the program. Projects to be  
18 funded shall include only the following:

19 (1) On- and off-road equipment projects that are cost effective.

20 (2) Projects that provide mitigation for off-road gasoline exhaust  
21 and evaporative emissions.

22 (3) Projects that provide research to determine the air quality  
23 impacts of alternative fuels and projects that study the life-cycle  
24 impacts of alternative fuels and conventional fuels, the emissions  
25 of biofuel and advanced reformulated gasoline blends, and air  
26 pollution improvements and control technologies for use with  
27 alternative fuels and vehicles.

28 (4) Projects that augment the University of California's  
29 agricultural experiment station and cooperative extension programs  
30 for research to increase sustainable biofuels production and  
31 improve the collection of biomass feedstock.

32 (5) Incentives for small off-road equipment replacement to  
33 encourage consumers to replace internal combustion engine lawn  
34 and garden equipment.

35 (6) Incentives for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and  
36 equipment mitigation, including all of the following:

37 (A) Lower emission schoolbus programs.

38 (B) Electric, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid on- and off-road  
39 medium- and heavy-duty equipment.

1 (C) Regional air quality improvement and attainment programs  
2 implemented by the state or districts in the most impacted regions  
3 of the state.

4 (7) Workforce training initiatives related to advanced energy  
5 technology designed to reduce air pollution, including  
6 state-of-the-art equipment and goods, and new processes and  
7 systems. Workforce training initiatives funded shall be broad-based  
8 partnerships that leverage other public and private job training  
9 programs and resources. These partnerships may include, ~~though~~  
10 *but* are not limited to, employers, labor unions, labor-management  
11 partnerships, community organizations, workforce investment  
12 boards, postsecondary education providers including community  
13 colleges, and economic development agencies.

14 (8) Incentives to identify and reduce emissions from high  
15 emitting light-duty vehicles.

16 (d) (1) Beginning January 1, 2011, the state board shall submit  
17 to the Legislature a biennial report to evaluate the implementation  
18 of the Air Quality Improvement Program established pursuant to  
19 this chapter.

20 (2) The report shall include all of the following:

21 (A) A list of projects funded by the Air Quality Improvement  
22 Account.

23 (B) The expected benefits of the projects in promoting clean,  
24 alternative fuels and vehicle technologies.

25 (C) Improvement in air quality and public health, greenhouse  
26 gas emissions reductions, and the progress made toward achieving  
27 these benefits.

28 (D) The impact of the projects in making progress toward  
29 attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

30 (E) Recommendations for future actions.

31 (3) The state board may include the information required to be  
32 reported pursuant to paragraph (1) in an existing report to the  
33 Legislature as the state board deems appropriate.