

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING UTAHNS TO
CONSIDER THE SMOG RATING WHEN PURCHASING A
VEHICLE**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

Senate Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa

Cosponsor: Edward H. Redd

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor encourages the citizens of the state, when purchasing a vehicle, to consider the vehicle's smog rating and other environmental impacts.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes how vehicle emissions impact Utah's air quality;
- ▶ acknowledges the air quality benefits of purchasing a vehicle with a smog rating of eight or higher; and
- ▶ encourages citizens of the state to:
 - consider a vehicle's smog rating; and
 - purchase a vehicle with a smog rating of eight or higher.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:



WHEREAS, many of Utah's residents live in areas that experience periods when fine particulate or ozone pollution exceeds federal air quality standards;

WHEREAS, the Wasatch Front's and Cache Valley's unique geography are major contributors to serious air pollution during winter inversions as polluted ~~air~~ **warmer** colder air is trapped by ~~colder~~ **warmer** air and hemmed in by Utah's mountain ranges;

WHEREAS, according to the Utah Foundation, "Studies have shown that ozone and inversion-type particulate exposure can shorten life expectancy, exacerbate cardiovascular and respiratory issues, and increase infant mortality rates";

WHEREAS, as Utah's population continues to grow, so will the challenges to reducing vehicle pollutants;

WHEREAS, vehicle miles traveled in the state of Utah are expected to double between 2013 and 2040;

WHEREAS, areas that fail to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards' pollutant standards are classified as "nonattainment" areas, and vehicle sources account for a large percentage of emissions in Utah's nonattainment counties;

WHEREAS, during the winter, 48% of the emissions that lead to fine particulate pollution along the Wasatch Front comes from mobile sources;

WHEREAS, vehicles account for 45% of the emissions that lead to summertime ozone formation;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that a new vehicle be tested and its emissions analyzed before it is sold;

WHEREAS, the EPA provides a "smog rating" for vehicles that reflects tailpipe emissions that contribute to local and regional air pollution;

WHEREAS, smog ratings range from one to 10, with one being the most polluting to the environment and 10 being the least polluting;

WHEREAS, the average new vehicle sold has a smog rating of five;

WHEREAS, purchasing a vehicle with a smog rating of eight results in one-fifth the emissions of a vehicle with a smog rating of five;

WHEREAS, all new vehicles model year 2013 or newer are sold with a label featuring the vehicle's smog rating and other information regarding the vehicle's environmental impact;

WHEREAS, emissions standards for used vehicles can be identified by locating the

58 Vehicle Emissions Control Information label on the underside of the vehicle's hood; and

59 WHEREAS, in 2013, at Governor Gary R. Herbert's request, Envision Utah convened a
60 Clean Air Action Team that recommended as a first immediate action to "bring cleaner cars
61 and fuel to Utah as soon as possible," and further recommended to encourage the sale and
62 purchase of vehicles with a smog rating of eight or higher:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
64 Governor concurring therein, encourages citizens of the state, when purchasing a vehicle, to
65 consider the vehicle's smog rating and other environmental impacts.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage
67 automobile dealers to make a vehicle's smog rating known to customers when they are
68 purchasing a vehicle, just as they would fuel economy.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage
70 citizens to purchase a vehicle with a smog rating of eight or higher where such vehicle meets
71 the purchaser's needs.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel