

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 777

To provide for a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and technical research on the implications of the use of mid-level ethanol blends, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and technical research on the implications of the use of mid-level ethanol blends, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency.

1 (2) MID-LEVEL ETHANOL BLEND.—The term
2 “mid-level ethanol blend” means an ethanol-gasoline
3 blend containing greater than 10 and up to and in-
4 cluding 20 percent ethanol by volume that is in-
5 tended to be used in any conventional gasoline-pow-
6 ered motor vehicle or nonroad vehicle or engine.

7 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
9 through the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Re-
10 search and Development at the Environmental Protection
11 Agency, shall—

12 (1) not later than 45 days after the date of en-
13 actment of this Act, enter into an agreement with
14 the National Academy of Sciences to provide, within
15 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
16 a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and
17 technical research on the implications of the use of
18 mid-level ethanol blends, comparing mid-level eth-
19 anol blends to gasoline blends containing 10 percent
20 or 0 percent ethanol; and

21 (2) not later than 30 days after receiving the
22 results of the assessment under paragraph (1), sub-
23 mit a report to the Committee on Science, Space,
24 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
25 the Committee on Environment and Public Works of

1 the Senate on the findings of the assessment, to-
2 gether with the agreement or disagreement of the
3 Administrator with each of its findings.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—The assessment performed under
5 subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

6 (1) An evaluation of the short-term and long-
7 term environmental, safety, durability, and perform-
8 ance effects of the introduction of mid-level ethanol
9 blends on onroad, nonroad, and marine engines,
10 onroad and nonroad vehicles, and related equipment.
11 Such evaluation shall consider the impacts of quali-
12 fying mid-level ethanol blends or blends with higher
13 ethanol concentrations as a certification fuel. Such
14 evaluation shall include a review of all available sci-
15 entific evidence, including that relied upon by the
16 Administrator and published at 75 Fed. Reg. 68094
17 et seq. (November 4, 2010), 76 Fed. Reg. 4662 et
18 seq. (January 26, 2011), and 76 Fed. Reg. 44406
19 et seq. (July 25, 2011), and identify gaps in under-
20 standing and research needs related to—

- 21 (A) tailpipe emissions;
- 22 (B) evaporative emissions;
- 23 (C) engine and fuel system durability;
- 24 (D) onboard diagnostics;

1 (E) emissions inventory and other mod-
2 eling effects;

3 (F) materials compatibility;

4 (G) operability and drivability;

5 (H) fuel efficiency;

6 (I) fuel economy;

7 (J) knock resistance;

8 (K) consumer education and satisfaction;

9 (L) cost effectiveness for the consumer;

10 (M) catalyst durability; and

11 (N) durability of storage tanks, piping,
12 and dispensers for retail.

13 (2) An identification of areas of research, devel-
14 opment, and testing necessary to—

15 (A) ensure that existing motor fuel infra-
16 structure is not adversely impacted by mid-level
17 ethanol blends, including an examination of po-
18 tential impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on
19 metal, plastic, rubber, or any other materials
20 used in pipes or storage tanks; and

21 (B) reduce the risk of misfueling by users
22 at various points in the distribution and supply
23 chain, including at bulk storage, retail storage,
24 and distribution configurations by—

1 (i) assessing the best methods and
2 practices to prevent misfueling;

3 (ii) examining misfueling mitigation
4 strategies for blender pumps, including vol-
5 umetric purchase requirements and label-
6 ing requirements;

7 (iii) assessing the adequacy of and
8 ability for misfueling mitigation plans ap-
9 proved by the Environmental Protection
10 Agency; and

11 (iv) soliciting and considering rec-
12 ommendations of the National Institute of
13 Standards and Technology, the American
14 National Standards Institute, the Inter-
15 national Organization for Standardization,
16 and the National Conference on Weights
17 and Measures regarding fuel pump label-
18 ing.

19 (c) WAIVERS.—Prior to the submission of the report
20 under subsection (a)(2), any waiver granted under section
21 211(f)(4) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(f)(4)) be-
22 fore the date of enactment of this Act that allows the in-
23 troduction into commerce of mid-level ethanol blends for
24 use in motor vehicles shall have no force or effect. The
25 Administrator shall grant no new waivers under such sec-

1 tion 211(f)(4) until after the submission of the report de-
2 scribed under subsection (a)(2).

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 In order to carry out this Act, the Administrator shall
5 utilize up to \$900,000 from the funds made available for
6 science and technology, including research and develop-
7 ment activities, at the Environmental Protection Agency.

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