

SENATE, No. 2507

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes DEP program to reduce heavy-duty diesel truck emissions from trucks operating in the ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning reduction of air pollutants and diesel exhaust
2 emissions, and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the daily confluence
8 of heavy-duty diesel truck traffic coming and going through the
9 ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark create a
10 unique and burdensome environmental problem for the State and
11 the citizens of these cities and the surrounding communities; that
12 the concentration of air pollutants and diesel exhaust from these
13 trucks queuing to drop off and pick up shipping containers at the
14 ports create a serious environmental and health hazard for the area
15 around the ports, including the Ironbound Neighborhood in Newark,
16 whose high particulate emissions from diesel exhaust has been
17 studied and documented; that the federal government has recently
18 acknowledged the serious health and environmental risks of diesel
19 emissions, calling for a 25 percent reduction in these emissions over
20 the next 10 years; that the Port Authority of New York and New
21 Jersey has sought to require trucks operating in the port district to
22 be model year 2007 and newer so as to greatly reduce this problem,
23 but has postponed enforcement of the requirement because, after
24 committing to the project and promising funding, the Port Authority
25 did not provide funding for truckers to update their vehicles despite
26 the economic hardship it would impose on truckers and their
27 trucking companies if trucks operating in the port district were
28 required to be model year 2007 or newer; that the Department of
29 Environmental Protection has long been aware of the air pollution
30 problems at the New Jersey ports; that, since 1995, the department
31 has endeavored to reduce emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks
32 in the State through enforcement of the periodic and roadside diesel
33 emissions programs, and, since 2005, through increased
34 enforcement of idling standards and the reduction of fine particulate
35 emissions through the retrofitting and conversion of vehicles and
36 fleets with funding from the Diesel Risk Mitigation Fund
37 established pursuant to section 28 of P.L.2005, c.219 (C.26:2C-
38 8.53); that much of the accomplished reductions were possible
39 because of the funding from the Diesel Risk Mitigation Fund; and
40 that establishing a similar stable source of funding and concentrated
41 effort on the reduction of diesel emissions in the ports of Bayonne,
42 Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark could improve the long-standing
43 environmental and health risks associated with the heavy-duty
44 diesel truck traffic there.

45 The Legislature therefore determines that reduction of diesel
46 emissions at the ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and
47 Newark in the New Jersey portion of the Port District of New York
48 and New Jersey is a State environmental problem; that it is in the

1 best interest of the State to establish a clean truck tariff program at
2 the ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark in order
3 to protect the health of the residents and citizens while maintaining
4 the economic vitality of the region; and that the clean truck tariff
5 program should encourage the updating of the trucks operating
6 there and provide funding to accomplish those updates.

7 Furthermore, the Legislature urges the Port Authority of New
8 York and New Jersey to reinstate its commitment to funding the
9 conversion of trucks operating in the ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth,
10 Jersey City, and Newark to model years eight years old and newer
11 by supporting the clean truck tariff established pursuant to section 3
12 of this act and assisting the Department of Environmental
13 Protection by entering into an agreement with the department
14 pursuant to that section.

15

16 2. As used in this act:

17 “Beneficial cargo owner” means the person who owns the
18 contents of a container being delivered to, or collected from, the
19 New Jersey portion of the port district.

20 “Department” means the New Jersey Department of
21 Environmental Protection.

22 “Eligible truck” is any heavy-duty diesel truck registered to
23 operate in the New Jersey portion of the port district with a model
24 year of 2011 or older, or after January 2, 2020, with a model year
25 more than eight years old.

26 “Fund” means the Clean Truck Tariff Fund established pursuant
27 to section 4 of this act.

28 “New Jersey portion of the port district” means the portion of the
29 Port District of New York and New Jersey located entirely in the
30 State of New Jersey, and encompassing the ports of Bayonne,
31 Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark.

32 “Port authority” means the Port Authority of New York and New
33 Jersey.

34

35 3. a. Prior to January 2, 2020, the beneficial cargo owner of
36 the contents of a container being transported by an owner or
37 operator of a heavy-duty diesel truck registered to operate in the
38 New Jersey portion of the port district with a model year of 2011 or
39 older shall pay a per-trip clean truck tariff. The clean truck tariff
40 shall be not less than \$100 nor more than \$150 per trip by an owner
41 or operator of a heavy-duty diesel truck to a port receiving or
42 delivering a shipping container, as determined in the agreement
43 established pursuant to subsection c. of this section and collected in
44 the manner provided by the agreement. On January 2, 2020 and
45 thereafter, the beneficial cargo owner of the contents of a container
46 being transported by an owner or operator of a heavy-duty diesel
47 truck registered to operate in the New Jersey portion of the port

1 district with a model year more than eight years old shall pay the
2 clean truck tariff.

3 b. Any moneys collected for the clean truck tariff pursuant to
4 subsection a. of this section shall be forwarded to the New Jersey
5 Department of Environmental Protection and deposited in the
6 "Clean Truck Tariff Fund," established pursuant to section 4 of this
7 act. An owner of a heavy-duty diesel truck registered to operate in
8 the New Jersey portion of the port district with a model year of
9 2011 or older, or after January 2, 2020, with a model year more
10 than eight years old, may apply to the department for a subsidy or
11 reimbursement as provided in section 5 of this act.

12 c. The department shall enter into an agreement with the Port
13 Authority of New York and New Jersey to provide for the
14 collection and receipt by the department of the clean truck tariff
15 established pursuant to subsection a. of this section. If the port
16 authority facilitates the collection of the clean truck tariff and incurs
17 any administrative expenses therefor, it may retain a portion of the
18 collected moneys, not to exceed 2 percent, for administrative
19 expenses connected with its responsibilities pursuant to the
20 agreement. The agreement shall establish the dollar amount of the
21 clean truck tariff, how it shall be imposed and collected, and any
22 other provisions the department and the port authority determine to
23 be necessary for the collection of the clean truck tariff.

24
25 4. a. There is established in the department a special,
26 nonlapsing fund to be known as the "Clean Truck Tariff Fund." The
27 fund shall be administered by the department and shall be credited
28 with moneys collected as clean truck tariffs pursuant to section 3 of
29 this act and any moneys that may be made available to the
30 department by the Legislature, the federal government, the State, or
31 pursuant to its applications or solicitations pursuant to subsection d.
32 of this section.

33 b. Moneys in the fund shall be used by the department solely
34 for:

35 (1) providing subsidies or reimbursements to owners of eligible
36 trucks as provided pursuant to subsection c. of this section;

37 (2) administrative costs incurred by the department in the
38 awarding and distribution of the subsidies or reimbursements,
39 provided that these administrative costs do not exceed 1 percent of
40 the moneys deposited in the fund annually; and

41 (3) any moneys due to the port authority pursuant to the
42 agreement entered into pursuant to subsection c. of section 3 of this
43 act.

44 c. Any owner of an eligible truck shall be eligible for a subsidy
45 or reimbursement pursuant to section 5 of this act from the fund
46 established pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

47 d. The department shall also apply for and solicit funding from
48 any sources that may be available for the subsidies or

1 reimbursements to owners of eligible trucks provided pursuant to
2 this act.

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4 5. a. Moneys in the fund shall be allocated and used to provide
5 a subsidy or reimbursement to the owner of any eligible truck for a
6 percentage of the cost of purchase of a replacement truck, as
7 determined by the department.

8 b. An owner of an eligible truck seeking a subsidy or
9 reimbursement authorized by subsection a. of this section shall file
10 an application therefor on a form to be developed by the
11 Department of Environmental Protection, with the documentation
12 required by the department. The department shall not charge an
13 application fee.

14 c. Upon determination that an application for a subsidy or
15 reimbursement meets all established criteria for an award from the
16 fund, the department shall approve the application and award the
17 subsidy or reimbursement, upon the availability of sufficient
18 moneys in the fund. If moneys in the fund are not sufficient at any
19 point to fund all applications for a subsidy or reimbursement,
20 awards shall be made based upon the date of approval of the
21 application.

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23 6. a. The Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to
24 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
25 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations establishing:

26 (1) filing requirements for a complete application for a subsidy
27 or reimbursement from the fund;

28 (2) requirements for an owner of an eligible truck to submit
29 documentation or other information demonstrating the intent to
30 purchase or the actual purchase of an eligible truck, which may
31 include the vehicle identification number of the truck, and
32 documentation of the actual costs incurred for the purchase or the
33 projected costs for the intended purchase;

34 (3) eligibility requirements for an owner of an eligible truck,
35 including, but not limited to, documentation that the owner is in
36 compliance with the applicable labor, truck safety, and tax laws;
37 and

38 (4) any other procedures or requirements necessary for the
39 implementation of this act.

40 b. In establishing requirements for an application for a subsidy
41 or reimbursement, the department shall strive to minimize the
42 complexity of the process and the application requirements, and
43 shall expeditiously process all applications in accordance with the
44 funding available.

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46 7. a. The department may deny an application for a subsidy or
47 reimbursement from the fund, and any subsidy or reimbursement
48 awarded from the fund may be recoverable by the department, upon

1 a finding that the owner of a heavy-duty diesel truck provided false
2 information or withheld information on an application that would
3 render the owner ineligible for a subsidy or reimbursement from the
4 fund, that resulted in the owner receiving a larger subsidy or
5 reimbursement than the owner would otherwise be eligible for, or
6 that resulted in payments from the fund in excess of the actual costs
7 incurred by the owner or the amount to which the owner is legally
8 eligible.

9 b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
10 department, or any other State agency or department, to undertake
11 an investigation or make any findings concerning the conduct
12 described in subsection a. of this section.

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14 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill establishes in the New Jersey Department of
20 Environmental Protection (DEP) a clean truck tariff program to be
21 administered by the DEP to address the State health and
22 environmental problems from heavy-duty diesel truck traffic in the
23 ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and Newark. The bill
24 requires the beneficial cargo owner of a container being transported
25 by an owner or operator of a heavy-duty diesel truck registered to
26 operate in the New Jersey portion of the port district to pay a clean
27 truck tariff of not less than \$100 nor more than \$150 per trip to a
28 port to receive or deliver a shipping container:

29 1) prior to January 2, 2020 if the model year of the truck is 2011
30 or older; and

31 2) on and after January 2, 2020 if the model year of the truck is
32 more than eight years old.

33 The bill further provides that all moneys collected for the clean
34 truck tariff would be deposited in the "Clean Truck Tariff Fund,"
35 established in the bill, and that the moneys would be used to
36 subsidize or reimburse the costs of updating the model years of the
37 trucks operating in the ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, and
38 Newark. The bill also directs the DEP to apply for and solicit
39 funding for these subsidies or reimbursements from whatever
40 funding sources may be available, for deposit into the "Clean Truck
41 Tariff Fund." Any owner of a heavy-duty diesel truck registered to
42 operate in the New Jersey portion of the port district with a model
43 year of 2011 or older, or on or after January 2, 2020, with a model
44 year more than eight years old, may apply to the DEP for a subsidy
45 or reimbursement in the manner established by the DEP.

46 The bill also directs the DEP to enter into an agreement with the
47 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the Port Authority) to
48 provide for the collection of the clean truck tariff and the

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1 forwarding of the moneys therefrom to the DEP. The bill allows
2 the Port Authority to retain a portion of the collected moneys, not to
3 exceed 2 percent, for administrative expenses connected with its
4 responsibilities pursuant to the agreement. The bill also requires
5 the agreement to establish the dollar amount of the clean truck
6 tariff, how it would be imposed and collected, and any other
7 provisions the DEP and the Port Authority determine to be
8 necessary for the collection of the clean truck tariff.