

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Bill Summary

The Diesel Pollution Initiative (DPI) is a coalition of 38 organizations founded by **Clean Water Action**, **The American Lung Association**, **Environment Northeast**, and **Environment Rhode Island** to reduce the threat that diesel pollution poses to public health across Rhode Island. Diesel pollution has high levels of particulate matter (PM), or particles that are inhaled deep into the lungs. PM leads to increased risk of cancer, decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, heart attacks and premature death. In Rhode Island, each year diesel pollution leads to 50 premature deaths, 80 non-fatal heart attacks, 900 asthma attacks, 1,400 respiratory symptoms in children, and 5,500 missed days of work.

The EPA issued new fuel and engine emission standards that will require new engines to be 90% cleaner, starting in 2007. However, older engines will still be on our roads, perhaps for decades. The technology that makes new engines cleaner can also be retrofitted onto existing engines.

DPI supports The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (H5574A, S566A), which calls for the cleanup of pre-2007 full-size school buses. The bill's provisions include:

Protecting School Children from Polluting School Buses

By September 1, 2010, no full-size school bus with an engine model year 1993 or older may be used to transport school children in RI.

And, providing the availability of federal funds, by September 1, 2010 all full-sized buses must be retrofitted with a closed crankcase system (to keep emissions from entering the bus cabin) and either:

- (A) a level 1 (25% PM reduction), 2 (50% PM reduction), or 3 (85% PM reduction) retrofit, or
- (B) a 2007 or newer engine, or
- (C) a verified alternative fuel.

Funding for level 3 retrofits will be provided if the buses operate in RI at least four years.

Future Goals

DEM will identify opportunities to clean up two additional fleets of diesel vehicles: waste haulers and state vehicles that are owned, leased, or contracted by the state. DEM will present a report to the General Assembly and Governor by January 1, 2008.

Rhode Island Diesel Pollution Initiative

Clean Water Action

www.cleanwater.org/ri ♦ (401) 331-6972

American Lung Association

www.lungri.org ♦ (401) 421-6487 X20

Environment Northeast

www.env-ne.org ♦ (617) 469-6375

Environment Rhode Island

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