

SB 525 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt standards prohibiting engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small nonroad engines beginning January 1, 2026, unless a later date is required by federal Clean Air Act. Defines "Small nonroad equipment" as any equipment powered by a small nonroad engine (less than 25 horsepower that is not designed primarily to propel a motor vehicle on public highways) or comparable electric motor or other power source. Requires EQC, prior to adopting rules, to determine rules will be cost effective and technologically feasible. Requires EQC to consider certain factors when determining technological feasibility. Directs Department of Environmental Quality to establish program to provide incentives for purchase of zero-emission small nonroad equipment. Requires DEQ give priority to small businesses when providing incentives. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Prohibits person from using or causing person to use gasoline powered leaf blower withing population of 500,000 or more. Requires enforcement officer to issue a warning if person is in first violation of Act. Establishes second violation of Act is a class C violation. Prohibition becomes operative January 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over half the pollutants in America's air come from "mobile sources" of air pollution. These mobile sources include cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, scooters, off road construction equipment, marine engines, generators, and small engines and equipment. The Clean Air Act requires new engines and equipment sold or distributed in the United States to be certified to meet EPA-established emissions requirements to protect public health and the environment from air pollution.

Senate Bill 525 would direct the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt standards prohibiting engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small nonroad engines beginning January 1, 2026, unless a later date is required by federal Clean Air Act.