

May 17, 2006

H 2221. MERCURY SWITCH AMENDMENTS. Filed 5/17/06. *TO AMEND THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE REMOVAL, COLLECTION, AND RECOVERY OF MERCURY SWITCHES FROM CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.* Amends GS 130A-310.50, 130A-310.52, 130A-310.53, 130A-310.54, 130A-310.55, and 130A-310.57 concerning the mercury minimization plan for removing, collecting, and recovering mercury switches from vehicles that are about to be scrapped ("end-of-life vehicles"). The bill redefines "capture rate" (that is, the proportion of mercury switches in end-of-life vehicles that are in fact successfully collected and recovered) to express it in terms of an annual goal of 90%; introduces into the statute the terms "destination facility," "universal waste," and "universal waste handler;" and defines them as they are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations. Provides that the education program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is to include information on the preparation of removed mercury switches for transport to a universal waste handler or destination facility. Changes the reporting requirement for reporting by vehicle recyclers or scrap metal recycling facilities that remove mercury switches from quarterly to annual and requires that the report state the number of mercury switches sent to a universal waste handler or destination facility. Deletes provision regarding storage of removed mercury switches and provides for reimbursement to vehicle recyclers or scrap metal recycling facilities on the basis of the number of switches sent to a universal waste handler or destination facility. Adds provisions making improper disposal of vehicles containing mercury switches or improper handling of mercury switches a Class 1 misdemeanor, improper reporting a Class 2 misdemeanor, and obtaining a mercury switch from another source and falsely reporting it was removed from a vehicle for recovery a Class 2 misdemeanor. Also provides for civil enforcement. Effective January 1, 2007.

Intro. by L. Allen and Gibson.

GS 130A