

April 7, 2009

H 1207. CLEAN CARS/VEHICLE RETIREMENT PROGRAM. Filed 4/7/09. *TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN THE STATE BY ESTABLISHING A VEHICLE RETIREMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR REMOVING OLDER, MORE POLLUTING VEHICLES FROM OPERATION AND TO ESTABLISH A CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE VEHICLE FUEL ECONOMY AND REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS.*

Enacts new GS 143-215.107E *et seq.*, requiring the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to develop a Vehicle Retirement Program to provide incentives for owners of older vehicles to replace them with newer, cleaner vehicles. The Program must provide moderate-income owners of vehicles produced in or before the 1995 model year a voucher of at least \$1,000 in exchange for purchasing a three-year-old or newer vehicle from a participating dealer and relinquishing the older vehicle to the dealer to be scrapped. Larger vouchers would be available for purchasing hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles.

The Program is funded by taking an additional \$1 from the fee assessed for titling a vehicle and \$1 from the fee of registering a vehicle, together with matching funds from the Department itself. The funds go to the newly established Vehicle Retirement Assistance Account. The bill also provides for a consumer education program with the first report due October 1, 2010. Requires the Department to publish an annual report on the Vehicle Retirement Program.

The bill is effective when it becomes law, except for the funding provisions, which are effective January 1, 2010.

Intro. by Cole.

GS 20, 143