

Union Calendar No. 263

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5359

[Report No. 109-475]

To amend the automobile fuel economy provisions of title 49, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards for passenger automobiles based on one or more vehicle attributes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

MAY 22, 2006

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the automobile fuel economy provisions of title 49, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards for passenger automobiles based on one or more vehicle attributes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. CAFE STANDARDS FOR PASSENGER AUTO-**
2 **MOBILES.**

3 (a) AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS FOR PAS-
4 SENDER AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32902 of title 49,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(c) AMENDING PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE STAND-
9 ARDS.—

10 “(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Trans-
11 portation may prescribe regulations amending the
12 standard under subsection (b) of this section for a
13 model year. If the Secretary does not prescribe regu-
14 lations under this subsection for a given model year,
15 the standard in effect for the preceding model year
16 shall apply to such model year and each model year
17 thereafter.

18 “(2) MAXIMUM FEASIBLE AVERAGE FUEL
19 ECONOMY.—The standard prescribed under this sub-
20 section shall be the maximum feasible average fuel
21 economy level that the Secretary decides the manu-
22 facturers can achieve in that model year. In amend-
23 ing such standard for a model year, the Secretary,
24 consistent with the Secretary’s authority under this
25 section for prescribing standards, may establish a

1 standard based on one or more vehicle attributes re-
2 lated to fuel economy.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “(and sub-
4 mit the amendment to Congress when required
5 under subsection (c)(2) of this section)”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 subsection (a) shall be effective on the date of enactment
8 of this Act. The Secretary of Transportation shall pre-
9 scribe regulations under section 32902(c) of title 49,
10 United States Code, not later than December 30, 2008.
11 Such regulations shall take into consideration standard
12 automobile industry design and production processes.

13 (c) STUDY OF REQUIREMENT OF SEPARATE CAL-
14 CULATIONS FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN FLEETS.—

15 (1) STUDY.—The Administrator of the National
16 Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall con-
17 duct a study on the requirement of separate fuel
18 economy calculations for automobiles manufactured
19 domestically and not domestically contained in sec-
20 tion 32904(b) of title 49, United States Code. Such
21 study shall—

22 (A) assess the effects of such requirement
23 on employment within the automobile industry
24 in the United States;

1 (B) assess the effects of such requirement
2 on overall passenger automobile fuel economy;

3 (C) determine the degree to which such re-
4 quirement encourages manufacturers to alter
5 their automobiles in order to meet automobile
6 fuel efficiency standards for both domestic and
7 foreign manufactured automobiles;

8 (D) examine the effect of requirements of
9 the North American Free Trade Agreement on
10 the operation of such requirement;

11 (E) determine whether such requirement
12 has resulted in additional costs to automobile
13 consumers; and

14 (F) determine whether such requirement
15 has promoted increased manufacturing of
16 smaller, more fuel-efficient cars in the United
17 States.

18 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
20 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-
21 tion shall transmit a report to Congress and to the
22 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
23 Agency on the conclusions of the study.

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