

2018 -- S 2963

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF A STRONG VEHICLE ANTI-IDLING POLICY IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 07, 2018

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle exhaust is the largest source of air pollution in Rhode Island,
2 and idling vehicles emit higher concentrations of harmful pollutants than moving vehicles; and

3 WHEREAS, Vehicle exhaust is hazardous to human health. Studies have linked pollution
4 from vehicles to increased rates of cancer, lung and heart disease, asthma and allergies, urban
5 smog and climate change; and

6 WHEREAS, Collectively, cars and trucks account for nearly one-fifth of all United States
7 emissions and emissions from vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, and are a
8 significant cause of climate change; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous traffic studies have found links between exposure to fine
10 particles and health effects including increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing
11 disorders, and premature death; and

12 WHEREAS, Vehicle idling often occurs in locations such as school grounds, parking
13 lots, distribution centers, strip malls, construction sites and business centers where residents are
14 exposed to concentrated sources of air pollutant emissions; and

15 WHEREAS, Asthma is a significant public health concern in Rhode Island, especially
16 among children and the elderly; and

17 WHEREAS, Fine particulate matter in exhaust is particularly harmful to children and
18 seniors. Tiny particles can lodge deep within human lungs, where they can trigger asthma attacks
19 and stunt lung growth in children, and contribute to chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and

1 heart attacks in seniors; and

2 WHEREAS, Petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are non-renewable fuels and
3 should be used wisely and not wasted; and

4 WHEREAS, Vehicle idling wastes money by burning fuel, creates the need for more
5 frequent oil and oil filter changes, and speeds engine wear; and

6 WHEREAS, Reducing air emissions and conserving fuel can be accomplished by
7 restricting the unnecessary operation of engines; and

8 WHEREAS, Even on the coldest winter days, modern engines need no more than five
9 minutes to warm up; and

10 WHEREAS, Current state law prohibits the idling of diesel vehicles for more than five
11 minutes per hour and studies have shown that an anti-idling policy for gasoline and diesel
12 vehicles will save fuel, prolong engine life and improve air quality; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby supports the adoption of a strong vehicle anti-idling policy to:

15 1. Encourage motor vehicle drivers to turn off their engines immediately at schools and
16 off-site school related events to minimize exposure of students and others to unnecessary harmful
17 emissions;

18 2. Maintain state vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust and comply with the annual
19 inspection requirement for those vehicles; and avoid idling unnecessarily on and off worksites;

20 3. Promote the widespread use of emission controls in state construction contracts;

21 4. Support education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts
22 of idling and the benefits of turning a vehicle off;

23 5. Designate Idle Free Zones throughout Rhode Island including places such as libraries,
24 parking lots, drive-through lines and medical facilities; and

25 6. Enforce the anti-idling law in title 31 chapter 16.1 of the Rhode Island General Laws
26 for diesel engines; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Governor Gina Raimondo, and the Director of
29 the Rhode Island Department of Revenue.

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