

HB 5039 - An Act Concerning Medium & Heavy Duty Vehicle Emission Standards

Clean trucks – and school buses! HB 5039 would allow Connecticut to adopt CA’s medium and heavy duty emission standards including the Advanced Clean Truck Rule (ACT) and the Heavy-Duty Omnibus NOx Rule (HDO). ACT requires vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of zero emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles, like trucks and school buses, each year. In addition, HOD sets emission standards to reduce harmful NOx and particulate matter (PM2.5) from medium-and heavy-duty vehicle engines.

Already adopted in six states. CA finalized ACT in 2020.¹ Since then, [five other states](#), including NJ, NY, and MA, have adopted it. ME and RI are now considering it as well. MA also adopted the HOD Rule.

Connecticut should be next. In 2021, CT considered adopting ACT. [SB 931](#) passed almost unanimously in the CT Senate—but was never brought for a vote in the House.

Health and climate benefits. A recent [report](#) shows that adopting ACT and HOD in CT would result in major air quality improvements, public health benefits, and climate benefits.

No time to waste. Governor Lamont’s recent [Executive Order](#) directed DEEP to determine whether the standards will help to meet state air quality standards and climate goals. The answer seems clear, as CT has [terrible air quality](#) and is [not on track](#) to meet climate goals.

Zero emission vehicles are key to achieving a clean transportation future.

- ZEVs generate no tailpipe pollution and are [getting even cleaner](#) as we continue moving to renewable sources of energy like wind and solar to generate electricity.
- Connecticut has signed on to multi-state agreements to rapidly accelerate the adoption of [ZEVs](#), including [medium and heavy-duty](#) vehicles. But we’re falling far short of our goals. Only [21,382 ZEVs](#) are currently registered in CT, nearly all light-duty vehicles.

Vehicles are a major source of pollution in Connecticut.

- Transportation is the [largest source of emissions](#) in Connecticut, accounting for about 37% of the state’s climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions.
- Pollution from cars, trucks, and buses [harms public health](#), especially for people in low income and minority neighborhoods who live close to highways and major roads.

Bottom Line: Adopting HB 5039 would be a major step forward for Connecticut to reduce emissions, improve public health, and move towards a cleaner transportation future.

¹ Under the federal Clean Air Act, CA is allowed to adopt more stringent requirements for motor vehicles. Other states can choose to adopt the CA rules instead of the federal standards that would otherwise apply.