

STATE OF NEW YORK

1948

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, MANNION -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the disabling, removal or interference with emission control devices; and to amend the environmental conservation law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to prohibiting the use of emission tampering devices and providing remedies for the violation of such provisions

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act may be known and may be cited as the "emission
2 tampering act of 2023".

3 § 2. Article 19 of the environmental conservation law is amended by
4 adding a new title 13 to read as follows:

TITLE 13

EMISSION TAMPERING

Section 19-1301. Statement of findings.

19-1303. Definitions.

19-1305. Prohibitions.

19-1307. Emission inspections and reporting.

19-1309. Enforcement.

§ 19-1301. Statement of findings.

13 1. Emission control devices installed by manufacturers of diesel-pow-
14 ered heavy duty vehicles are essential to limiting the emission of air
15 pollutants from such vehicles, protecting the public health from the
16 adverse health effects of those pollutants, and maintaining the state's
17 ability to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets set forth in the
18 climate change and community leadership act.

19 2. The United States environmental protection agency has determined
20 that emission controls have been removed from over one-half million

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 heavy duty vehicles in the last decade, resulting in more than one-half
2 million tons of excess nitrogen oxides and five thousand tons of excess
3 particulate matter being emitted from those vehicles.

4 3. The United States environmental protection agency has estimated
5 that in New York more than thirteen thousand heavy duty vehicles have
6 disabled or removed emission controls, resulting in excess emissions of
7 over thirteen thousand tons of nitrogen oxides and over one hundred tons
8 of particulate matter.

9 4. The tampering with, disabling, or removal of emission controls in
10 diesel-powered motor vehicles poses a serious threat to the health of
11 the citizens of New York state.

12 § 19-1303. Definitions.

13 As used in this title:

14 1. "Aftermarket defeat device" means a part or component intended for
15 use with, or as part of, any motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine where
16 a principal effect of the part or component is to bypass, defeat, alter
17 or render inoperative any device or element of design installed on or in
18 a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine in compliance with any require-
19 ment of the federal clean air act or of this title.

20 2. "Heavy duty vehicle" means a heavy duty vehicle as defined in
21 subdivision one of section 19-0320 of this article.

22 3. "Motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined in section one
23 hundred twenty-five of the vehicle and traffic law.

24 4. "Tamper" means to remove or render inoperative or inaccurate any
25 device or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor
26 vehicle engine in compliance with any requirement of the federal clean
27 air act or of this article.

28 § 19-1305. Prohibitions.

29 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with a motor vehicle.

30 2. No person shall sell, offer for sale or distribute an aftermarket
31 defeat device.

32 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, install or attempt
33 to install an aftermarket defeat device.

34 4. A violation of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty
35 of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than five thousand
36 dollars for the first violation and not less than two thousand and not
37 more than ten thousand dollars for the second and each subsequent
38 violation by the court or administrative tribunal before which the
39 summons or appearance ticket is returnable.

40 § 19-1307. Emission inspections and reporting.

41 1. No later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of
42 this title, the department, jointly with the department of motor vehi-
43 cles and department of transportation, shall modify the annual
44 inspection and roadside program established by subdivision two of
45 section 19-0320 of this article and the enhanced inspection and mainte-
46 nance program governed by 6 NYCRR Part 217 to require that each vehicle
47 is visually inspected for the presence of an aftermarket defeat device.

48 2. The owner or operator of a motor vehicle that, as a result of an
49 inspection, is determined to have an aftermarket defeat device, shall
50 remove or cause to be removed such device within ten business days of
51 the date of the inspection and shall provide written proof of such
52 removal in a form acceptable to the department, such proof to be submit-
53 ted to the department within fifteen business days of the date of the
54 inspection.

55 3. Failure by the owner or operator of a motor vehicle to remove or
56 cause to be removed an aftermarket defeat device and provide written

1 proof thereof to the department shall subject such person to a civil
2 penalty of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than five
3 thousand dollars.

4 4. No later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of
5 this title, the department shall prepare and make available to vehicle
6 emission inspection stations:

7 a. a written notice setting forth the removal and written proof
8 requirements relating to aftermarket defeat devices and the penalties
9 for failing to comply with such requirements for distribution to owners
10 or operators of motor vehicles containing aftermarket defeat devices;
11 and

12 b. a form constituting written proof of removal of an aftermarket
13 defeat device.

14 5. Any person conducting an inspection of a motor vehicle who deter-
15 mines that the vehicle contains an aftermarket defeat device shall
16 promptly inform the owner or operator of the vehicle of the presence of
17 the device and inform such owner or operator of the removal and written
18 proof requirements of this section. Such information may be provided by
19 written notice in such form as prepared by the department.

20 § 19-1309. Enforcement.

21 The department and the attorney general are hereby authorized to
22 enforce the provisions of this title and all monies collected shall be
23 deposited to the credit of the environmental protection fund established
24 pursuant to section ninety-two-s of the state finance law. The
25 provisions of section 19-1305 of this title may be enforced by a county,
26 city, town or village provided the local legislative body thereof may
27 adopt local laws, ordinances or regulations consistent with this title
28 providing for the enforcement of such provisions.

29 § 3. Subdivision 28-a of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law,
30 as added by chapter 1026 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 28-a. (a) Except as permitted or authorized by law, no person shall
33 remove, dismantle or otherwise cause to be inoperative any equipment or
34 feature constituting an operational element of a motor vehicle's air
35 pollution control system or mechanism required by federal or state law
36 or by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

37 (b) Except as permitted or authorized by law, no registered owner
38 shall permit a motor vehicle fueled with diesel fuel to be operated with
39 an aftermarket defeat device, nor shall a registered owner possess,
40 install, or attempt to install an aftermarket defeat device.

41 (c) As used in this subdivision, "aftermarket defeat device" shall
42 mean a part or component intended for use with, or as part of, any motor
43 vehicle or motor vehicle engine where a principal effect of the part or
44 component is to bypass, defeat, alter or render inoperative any device
45 or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle
46 engine in compliance with any requirement of the federal clean air act,
47 the environmental conservation law, or of this article.

48 (d) A person convicted of a violation of this subdivision shall, for a
49 first violation thereof with respect to a particular motor vehicle, be
50 punished by a fine of seven hundred fifty dollars. Such fine may not be
51 waived, suspended or in any other manner not levied, except that four
52 hundred fifty dollars of such fine may be waived upon submission of
53 acceptable evidence prior to the final determination of the violation
54 that the air pollution control system or mechanism required by federal
55 or state law or by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto
56 has been restored on the vehicle and is in proper working condition. A

1 person convicted of a second or subsequent violation with respect to a
2 particular vehicle shall be punished by a fine of seven hundred fifty
3 dollars, which fine may not be waived, suspended or in any other manner
4 not levied.

5 § 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
6 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment
7 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
8 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
9 completed on or before such effective date.