

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9—SENATOR SCHNEIDER

MARCH 16, 2009

Referred to Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to revise certain provisions of federal law relating to hybrid vehicles. (BDR R-1065)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted-material] is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to revise certain provisions of federal law relating to hybrid vehicles.

1 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in
2 part to address America’s dependence on foreign oil and to advance
3 clean air initiatives by requiring governmental vehicle fleets to use
4 certain alternative fuels in place of gasoline and diesel; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress revised the Energy Policy Act in 2005 to
6 further advance these same goals; and

7 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that existing efforts to clean
8 America’s air have already resulted in improved health and life
9 spans for the nation’s citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, When the Energy Policy Act of 1992 was enacted,
11 hybrid electric vehicle technology was still in the early stages of
12 development; and

13 WHEREAS, Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, hybrid electric
14 vehicles were only allowed to satisfy fleet requirements under
15 certain limited conditions and were subject to burdensome reporting
16 standards; and

17 WHEREAS, In the years since the enactment of the original
18 Energy Policy Act, hybrid electric vehicles have emerged as
19 mainstream transportation with significantly lower emissions,
20 including those implicated in global warming, and have reduced fuel



* S J R 9 *

1 consumption, thus advancing Congress's intent in enacting the
2 Energy Policy Acts; and

3 WHEREAS, The automobile industry produces only a limited
4 number of alternative fuel vehicles, Honda being the sole
5 manufacturer with a compressed natural gas vehicle; and

6 WHEREAS, The alternative fuel supply infrastructure is still
7 slowly developing, and most fuels have some limitation on their
8 availability, such that E85, the term for an alternative fuel blend of
9 85 percent ethanol and just 15 percent gasoline, is readily available
10 only in the Midwest, while propane is largely limited to light trucks,
11 biodiesel is still in its infancy, there are no vehicles capable of using
12 methanol and all-electric vehicles remain scarce; and

13 WHEREAS, While some parties oppose inclusion of hybrids
14 under the Energy Policy Act because they use gasoline, a recent
15 study by the United States Government Accountability Office
16 showed that 92 percent of the federal alternative fuel fleet actually
17 runs on standard gasoline; and

18 WHEREAS, Flex-fuel vehicles tend to be bigger and less fuel-
19 efficient, leading one official from the Government Accountability
20 Office to conclude that federal fleet operators would have been
21 better off if they had just purchased regular vehicles that were more
22 fuel efficient; and

23 WHEREAS, Given this recognized exception to achieving the
24 goals of the Energy Policy Act, hybrid technology should be
25 embraced as a more practical way to reduce emissions, lessen the
26 use of foreign oil and save public money, the latter result being of
27 particular importance in these stressful economic times; and

28 WHEREAS, These vehicles have been well received by both
29 public and private users, and greater use of hybrids in public fleets
30 will help government lead by example in this important area; now,
31 therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
33 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Congress
34 of the United States to enact legislation authorizing hybrid electric
35 vehicles to fully qualify for compliance under the Energy Policy
36 Act; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
38 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
39 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
40 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional
42 Delegation; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
2 passage.

③⑩

