

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1882

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for a national tire fuel efficiency program.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18, 2005

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for a national tire fuel efficiency program.

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

3       **SECTION 1. MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES SUPPORTING MAX-**  
4       **IMUM FUEL EFFICIENCY.**

5       (a) STANDARDS FOR TIRES MANUFACTURED FOR  
6       INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Section 30123 of title 49,  
7       United States Code, is amended—

8               (1) in subsection (b), by inserting after the first  
9       sentence the following: “The grading system shall  
10       include standards for rating the fuel efficiency of

1       tires designed for use on passenger cars and light  
2       trucks.”; and

3               (2) by adding at the end the following:

4       “(d) NATIONAL TIRE FUEL EFFICIENCY PRO-  
5       GRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall develop and carry out a  
6       national tire fuel efficiency program for tires designed for  
7       use on passenger cars and light trucks.

8       “(2) The program shall include the following:

9               “(A) Policies and procedures for testing and la-  
10       beling tires for fuel economy to enable tire buyers to  
11       make informed purchasing decisions about the fuel  
12       economy of tires.

13              “(B) Policies and procedures to promote the  
14       purchase of energy-efficient replacement tires, in-  
15       cluding purchase incentives, website listings on the  
16       Internet, printed fuel economy guide booklets, and  
17       mandatory requirements for tire retailers to provide  
18       tire buyers with fuel-efficiency information on tires.

19              “(C) Minimum fuel economy standards for  
20       tires, promulgated by the Secretary.

21       “(3) The minimum fuel economy standards for tires  
22       shall—

23              “(A) ensure that the average fuel economy of  
24       replacement tires is equal to or better than the aver-  
25       age fuel economy of tires sold as original equipment;

1           “(B) secure the maximum technically feasible  
2           and cost-effective fuel savings;

3           “(C) not adversely affect tire safety;

4           “(D) not adversely affect the average tire life of  
5           replacement tires;

6           “(E) incorporate the results from—

7                 “(i) laboratory testing; and

8                 “(ii) to the extent appropriate and avail-  
9           able, on-road fleet testing programs conducted  
10          by the manufacturers; and

11          “(F) not adversely affect efforts to manage  
12          scrap tires.

13          “(4) The policies, procedures, and standards devel-  
14          oped under paragraph (2) shall apply to all types and  
15          models of tires that are covered by the uniform tire quality  
16          grading standards under section 575.104 of title 49, Code  
17          of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

18          “(5) Not less often than every three years, the Sec-  
19          retary shall review the minimum fuel economy standards  
20          in effect for tires under this subsection and revise the  
21          standards as necessary to ensure compliance with require-  
22          ments under paragraph (3). The Secretary may not, how-  
23          ever, reduce the average fuel economy standards applica-  
24          ble to replacement tires.

1       “(6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
 2 preempt any provision of State law relating to higher fuel  
 3 economy standards applicable to replacement tires de-  
 4 signed for use on passenger cars and light trucks.

5       “(7) Nothing in this chapter shall apply to—

6               “(A) a tire or group of tires with the same  
 7 SKU, plant, and year, for which the volume of tires  
 8 produced or imported is less than 15,000 annually;

9               “(B) a deep tread, winter-type snow tire, space-  
 10 saver tire, or temporary use spare tire;

11              “(C) a tire with a normal rim diameter of 12  
 12 inches or less;

13              “(D) a motorcycle tire; or

14              “(E) a tire manufactured specifically for use in  
 15 an off-road motorized recreational vehicle.

16       “(8) In this subsection, the term ‘fuel economy’, with  
 17 respect to tires, means the extent to which the tires con-  
 18 tribute to the fuel economy of the motor vehicles on which  
 19 the tires are mounted.”.

20       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 30103(b)  
 21 of title 49, United States Code, is amended in paragraph  
 22 (1) by striking “When” and inserting “Except as provided  
 23 in section 30123(d) of this title, when”.

24       (c) TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of  
 25 Transportation shall ensure that the national tire fuel effi-

1 ciency program required under subsection (d) of section  
2 30123 of title 49, United States Code (as added by sub-  
3 section (a)(2)), is administered so as to apply the policies,  
4 procedures, and standards developed under paragraph (2)  
5 of such subsection (d) beginning not later than March 31,  
6 2008.

