

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1882

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

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

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.

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