OLR Bill Analysis
HB 5419

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill directs 42.5% of federal Clean Air Act (CAA) fees collected on motor vehicle registrations (see BACKGROUND) to a “federal Clean Air Act account” within the General Fund and dedicates the money to certain environmental purposes. Under current law, this portion of CAA fees goes to the General Fund and is not dedicated to any specific purpose. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, directs the other 57.5% of CAA fees to the Special Transportation Fund.

The bill establishes the account as a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund and requires that it contain any money the law requires to be deposited in it. Account funds must be spent by the Department of Transportation commissioner, in conjunction with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner, to implement federal CAA requirements, improve air quality, and reduce carbon emissions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Clean Air Act Fees on Motor Vehicle Registrations

State law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to collect the CAA fee on new registrations and renewals and sets the fee at $15 for a triennial registration period, $10 for a biennial period, and $5 for an annual period. By law, the CAA fee does not apply to motor vehicles that are (1) electrically powered, (2) not self-propelled, or (3) exempt from a registration fee. Additionally, the fee is not refundable if a registration is canceled (CGS § 14-49b(a)).
COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  35   Nay  0   (03/24/2021)