
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 236

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BACK-UP DIESEL GENERATORS FOR PURPOSES OF PEAK SHAVING.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes emissions and hour limits for certain diesel reciprocating engines used for (1) on-site power generation to reduce power consumption from the electric grid (“peak shaving”) and (2) emergencies. The limits apply to engines contemporaneously installed at a single facility and totaling more than five megawatts (MW) of generating capacity.

Under the bill, these engines must be designed and operated so that, when operating at steady-state, they do not exceed the pollutant emissions limits in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Pollutant and Emissions Limits

<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>Emissions Limits (Pounds per MW Hour)</i>
Nitrogen oxide	0.6
Particulate Matter	0.07
Carbon monoxide	2.0
Non-methane hydrocarbons	0.3

The bill caps the annual use of these diesel engines at (1) 300 hours of operation for peak shaving and (2) 500 cumulative hours of operation for peak shaving, maintenance, and testing.

It also:

1. prohibits these engines from being used for peak shaving, testing, or maintenance, on days for which the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner forecasts that ozone levels will be “moderate to unhealthy for

sensitive groups,” “unhealthy for sensitive groups,” “unhealthy,” or “very unhealthy” and

2. requires the exhaust from these engines to exit from a stack discharge height of at least 34 feet from ground elevation to meet air modeling guidelines (see BACKGROUND).

Lastly, the bill allows the DEEP commissioner to prescribe or adopt more stringent requirements for these engines if applicable federal air permitting regulations allow for her to do so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Air Modeling Guidelines

The federal Clean Air Act requires air quality modeling to be used as a tool to show compliance with air quality standards. Connecticut regulations require owners and operators of certain stationary air pollution sources to obtain permits and the DEEP commissioner may require an ambient air quality impact analysis as part of that process (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 22a-174-3a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 10 (03/21/2022)