

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Suite 125
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
Fax: (907) 465-6592



Interim:

716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0250
Fax: (907) 269-0249

Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 26

"An Act exempting vehicles fueled solely by electric drive or compressed natural gas from motor vehicle registration fees and taxes; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 26 is a progressive approach in presenting incentives to the public for utilizing vehicles which employ the new technology of electricity or compressed natural gas. Other benefits of this bill include helping air quality and the potential for job increases with the new technology of products.

The automotive industry has been undergoing a significant transformation by moving toward the electrification of the automobile. Providing incentives would encourage many stakeholders and consumers to move forward with necessary changes, accelerate the deployment of second and third generations of the technology and achieve economies of scale more quickly, all leading to reductions in the cost of this new technology.

The availability of plug-in electric vehicles will be expanding and we need to prepare Alaska to be the "First Frontier" for this advanced technology and this bill readily supports its introduction.

Many states are already putting various types of incentives in place to make sure they attract these sorts of vehicles which drives new investment, development of new skills, while displacing petroleum and reducing local vehicle emissions.

This bill also includes CNG vehicles which will also displace petroleum and reduce emissions. These vehicles will assist Alaska in diversifying its energy requirements, which will reduce our risks from any potential shocks to the State's oil supply. In addition, supporting the sale of CNG vehicles will lower operating costs for consumers of these vehicles, many of which are struggling businesses still trying to recover from the local economy.

This bill shows that Alaska welcomes advanced technology and is getting itself "Plug-in Ready."