

**SENATE BILL NO. 253**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR KIEHL**

**Introduced: 2/19/26**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the sulfur content of marine fuel."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 30 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 **Chapter 35. Marine Fuel.**

5 **Sec. 30.35.010. Marine fuel in coastal waters.** Except as provided in this  
6 chapter, a person may not use marine fuel in an auxiliary engine or main engine on a  
7 vessel operating within applicable waters if the marine fuel exceeds a maximum sulfur  
8 content of

9 (1) 0.1 percent sulfur by weight while the vessel is operating within the  
10 emission control area; or

11 (2) 0.5 percent sulfur by weight while the vessel is operating outside  
12 the emission control area.

13 **Sec. 30.35.020. Exemptions.** (a) A person operating a vessel is exempt from  
14 the marine fuel requirements in this chapter during an ocean-going voyage that  
15 consists of continuous and expeditious navigation through applicable waters for the

1 purpose of traversing the applicable waters without calling at two or more ports,  
2 roadsteads, or terminal facilities in the state. In this subsection, "continuous and  
3 expeditious navigation" includes stopping and anchoring only if stopping and  
4 anchoring are required by the United States Coast Guard, rendered necessary by force  
5 majeure or distress, or made for the purpose of rendering assistance to a person,  
6 vessel, or aircraft in danger or distress.

7 (b) A person operating a vessel is exempt from the marine fuel requirements  
8 in this chapter if the person intends the vessel to call at one port, roadstead, or terminal  
9 facility in the state, but the vessel calls on a second port, roadstead, or terminal facility  
10 in the state because of force majeure, distress, or for the purpose of rendering  
11 assistance to a person, vessel, or aircraft in danger or distress.

12 (c) A person operating a vessel owned or operated by the United States or a  
13 foreign government is exempt from this chapter.

14 (d) The Department of Environmental Conservation may exempt a person  
15 operating a vessel from this chapter if the person operates the vessel in a manner that  
16 results in a total sulfur output to the environment that is less than or equivalent to the  
17 total sulfur output that would result from operating the vessel with a marine fuel that  
18 does not exceed a maximum sulfur content of 0.1 percent sulfur by weight.

19 **Sec. 30.35.030. Definitions.** In this chapter,

20 (1) "applicable waters" has the meaning given to "applicable waters of  
21 Alaska" in 33 CFR 159.305;

22 (2) "emission control area" means the North American Emission  
23 Control Area established under the International Convention for the Prevention of  
24 Pollution from Ships, 1973, Annex VI;

25 (3) "marine fuel" means a distillate fuel or residual fuel used for  
26 combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a vessel; "marine fuel" does  
27 not include natural gas, propane, ethanol, methanol, hydrogen, electricity, fuel cells, or  
28 a mixture that contains only natural gas, propane, ethanol, methanol, or hydrogen;

29 (4) "roadstead" means a facility that is used for the loading, unloading,  
30 and anchoring of vessels;

31 (5) "vessel" has the meaning given in AS 30.30.170.