

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
81R6067 JAM-F

S.B. 2019
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Natural Resources
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Texas law, dating from the 1970s, currently prohibits the use of flammable or toxic refrigerants. The new alternative R1234yf is slightly flammable whereas the current R-123a is not flammable. It is the Environmental Protection Agency's evaluation, approval, and setting of usage conditions and process that ensures an alternative refrigerant can be safely used in a vehicle, even if it is slightly flammable like R1234yf.

Manufacturers are transitioning the design of air-conditioning systems for the use of these newer, more environmentally friendly, refrigerants. Consistency across the nation is ideal. In addition to Texas, the following states have laws that prohibit the use of these newer refrigerants: Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Louisiana. Over the past three years, 15 states have removed statutory or regulatory barriers to the use of these refrigerants.

As proposed, S.B. 2019 removes barriers to a more environmentally friendly refrigerant with lower global warming potential. The bill allows certain refrigerants to be used in vehicle air-conditioning equipment that is approved and included in the list published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 547.610(a), Transportation Code, to prohibit air-conditioning equipment from containing any refrigerant that is flammable or toxic to persons unless the refrigerant is included in the list published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a safe alternative motor vehicle air conditioning substitute for chlorofluorocarbon-12, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 7671k(c).

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2009.