

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 486
Version: First Engrossment
DATE: April 1, 1999
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Subject: Oxygenated fuel delivery option
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Overview

Since October 1, 1997, almost all gasoline sold or offered for sale in Minnesota has been required to contain a minimum of 2.7 percent oxygen. Typically, the additive used to make Minnesota's "oxygenated" gasoline has been ethanol. The 1996 law that established the oxygenate mandate included exceptions for gasoline used in classic cars, motor sport racing vehicles, off-road vehicles, motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles, and small engines. However, a person wishing to buy non-oxygenated gasoline for use in motorized equipment that couldn't be brought to a marina, airport, racecourse, or service station could take delivery only in containers with a capacity of six gallons or less. In effect, this precluded the bulk delivery of non-oxygenated gasoline to a storage tank on private property (such as a private dock at a lakeside cabin or home or a private airstrip).

H.F. 486 allows delivery of non-oxygenated fuel to bulk storage tanks on littoral (shoreline or coastal area) or riparian (along a stream or river) property and for use in aircraft.

- 1 Minimum oxygen content required.** Expands the number of subdivisions containing exceptions to the oxygenate mandate.
- 2 Exemption for certain vehicles.** Strikes from current language the notation that the exemptions do not apply during a carbon monoxide control period in a carbon monoxide control area. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently prohibits the sale of non-oxygenated gasoline in a 10-county area [8 metro counties in Minnesota and 2 across the St. Croix River in Wisconsin] during the months of October through January. The change in Minnesota Statute will not override the EPA prohibition.)
- 3 Exemption for certain riparian landowners.** Creates a new subdivision allowing the delivery of non-oxygenated gasoline to a stationary bulk fuel storage tank on littoral or riparian properties if the tank is under the control of the property owner. The non-oxygenated gasoline must be used only in vehicles that currently qualify for an exemption.
- 4 Exemption for aircraft operators.** Creates a new subdivision allowing the delivery of non-

oxygenated gasoline to a bulk fuel storage tank for use in aircraft.