

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Gasoline-ethanol blends

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### Overview

This bill amends laws that regulate and promote transportation fuel created by mixing (i.e. blending) renewable sources and gasoline. In particular, the bill: creates a distinction between blends allowed for use in standard engines v. flex-fuel vehicles; directs state agencies to obtain approval for additional ethanol-blended fuels and gas pumps that offer a wider array of renewable fuel blends; and synchronizes various descriptions of gasoline-ethanol blends in state law.

### Section

- 1 Eligible blender.** Modifies the definition of “ethanol blender” to include persons creating blends with any percentage of ethanol.
- 2 Gasoline blended with ethanol; general.** Removes the 10 percent (ethanol) limit on gasoline-ethanol blends, thereby creating general requirements for all gasoline-ethanol blends.
- 3 Gasoline blended with ethanol; standard combustion engines.** Provides a new category of gasoline-ethanol blends — those for use in standard combustion engines. Puts a 10 percent cap on the ethanol in these blends. Also allows for other, richer blends that are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Requires the blend to comply with the general requirements for gasoline-ethanol blends.
- 4 Gasoline blended with ethanol; alternative fuel vehicles.** Provides a second category of gasoline-ethanol blends — those for use in alternative fuel vehicles (that are legally allowed under federal law to run on higher concentrations of ethanol). Allows the blending to be

**Section**

done by a person who blends ethanol and gasoline who must clearly identify the resulting ethanol content or in a blending dispenser at the point of retail sale that is labeled “FLEX-FUEL VEHICLES ONLY.” Requires a dedicated hose for blending pumps that dispense E10. Requires the blend to comply with the general requirements for gasoline-ethanol blends.

- 5      Promotion of renewable liquid fuels.** Expands the scope of duties assigned to several state agencies regarding the promotion of alternative fuels. Charges the agencies with obtaining regulatory approval for, and private certification of, liquid fuel dispensers (i.e. gas pumps) that offer consumers a wider selection of renewable fuel blends. In addition, the agencies must obtain federal approval for such gasoline-ethanol blends as E30 (i.e. 30% ethanol; 70% gasoline), E40, E50, E60, and E70.
- 6      Agricultural alcohol gasoline.** Removes the 10 percent (ethanol) cap in the definition of “Agricultural alcohol gasoline” in the chapter governing gasoline taxes. Removes mention of product specification requirements and directs the reader to the specs in sections 3 and 4.
- 7      Gasoline blended with ethanol.** Removes the specific provisions in the definition of “Gasoline blended with ethanol” in the chapter governing gasoline taxes. Removes mention of product specification requirements and instead references the specs in sections 3 and 4.