



SENATE BILL 448: Equalize Tax on Propane Used as a Motor Fuel

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Finance
Introduced by: Sen. B. Jackson
Analysis of: Second Edition

Date: August 11, 2015
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SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 448 would amend the motor fuels tax rate applicable to liquefied propane gas, when used as a motor fuel, by specifying that the gas gallon equivalent of liquefied propane gas is 5.75 pounds of liquefied propane gas.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H494, as introduced by Reps. Collins, Hager, Lewis, R. Moore, which is currently in House Finance.]

CURRENT LAW: Current law establishes motor fuel tax rates for alternative fuels used to operate a motor vehicle. Under current law:

- The motor fuels tax on liquefied natural gas, when used as a motor fuel, is imposed on each diesel gallon equivalent of liquefied natural gas. The diesel gallon equivalent of liquefied natural gas is established by State law to be 6.06 pounds of liquefied natural gas.¹
- The motor fuels tax on compressed natural gas, when used as a motor fuel, is imposed on each gas gallon equivalent of compressed natural gas. The gas gallon equivalent of compressed natural gas is established by State law to be 5.66 pounds of compressed natural gas.²
- The motor fuels tax on liquefied propane gas, when used as a motor fuel, is currently imposed on a gallon, by volume, of liquefied propane gas. A gallon of liquefied propane, at 70°F, weighs 4.2 lbs. A gallon of liquefied propane gas has 73% of the energy of a gallon of gasoline.³

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 448 would amend the motor fuels tax rate applicable to liquefied propane gas, when used as a motor fuel, by specifying that the gas gallon equivalent of liquefied propane gas is 5.75 pounds of liquefied propane gas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 448 would become effective January 1, 2016.

Heather Fennell and Giles Perry, both with the Research Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

¹ G.S. 105-449.130(1f), G.S. 105-449.136(a). Rate enacted by S.L. 2014-4

² G.S. 105-449.130(1g), G.S. 105-449.136(a). Rate enacted by S.L. 2014-4

³ Data is from the Alternative Fuels Data Center, US Department of Energy. www.afdc.energy.gov

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