

By Senator Simpson

10-01231-19

20191368\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to fleet vehicle rebate programs;  
 3 creating s. 377.813, F.S.; creating an electric and  
 4 hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program within the  
 5 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;  
 6 providing the purpose of the program; defining terms;  
 7 requiring the department to award rebates for the  
 8 program; providing an application process; requiring  
 9 the department to adopt rules by a specified date;  
 10 requiring the department to determine and publish  
 11 certain information regarding the availability of  
 12 funds on its website; requiring the department to  
 13 provide an annual assessment of the program to the  
 14 Governor, the Legislature, and the Office of Program  
 15 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability;  
 16 providing appropriations; providing an effective date.  
 17

18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 19

20 Section 1. Section 377.813, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 21 read:

22 377.813 Electric and hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program.-

23 (1) CREATION AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.-There is created  
 24 within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services an  
 25 electric and hybrid fleet vehicle rebate program. The purpose of  
 26 this program is to help reduce transportation costs in this  
 27 state and to encourage freight mobility investments that  
 28 contribute to the economic growth of this state.

29 (2) DEFINITIONS.-For purposes of this section, the term:

10-01231-19

20191368\_\_

30       (a) "Conversion cost" means the excess cost associated with  
31 converting from a diesel- or gasoline-powered motor vehicle to  
32 an electric or hybrid vehicle.

33       (b) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and  
34 Consumer Services.

35       (c) "Electric vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is  
36 powered by an electric motor that draws current from  
37 rechargeable storage batteries, fuel cells, or other sources of  
38 electrical current.

39       (d) "Eligible costs" means the conversion cost or the  
40 incremental cost incurred by an applicant in connection with an  
41 investment in the conversion, purchase, or lease of at least 5  
42 years of an electric or hybrid fleet vehicle placed into service  
43 on or after July 1, 2019. The term does not include costs for  
44 project development, fueling stations, or other fueling  
45 infrastructure.

46       (e) "Fleet vehicles" means three or more motor vehicles  
47 registered in this state and used for commercial business or  
48 governmental purposes.

49       (f) "Hybrid vehicle" has the same meaning as in s.  
50 316.0741.

51       (g) "Incremental costs" means the excess costs associated  
52 with the purchase or lease of an electric or hybrid vehicle as  
53 compared to an equivalent diesel- or gasoline-powered motor  
54 vehicle.

55       (3) ELECTRIC OR HYBRID FLEET VEHICLE REBATE.—The department  
56 shall award rebates for eligible costs as defined in this  
57 section. Forty percent of the annual allocation must be reserved  
58 for governmental applicants, with the remaining funds allocated

10-01231-19

20191368\_\_

59 for commercial applicants. A rebate may not exceed 50 percent of  
60 the eligible costs of an electric or hybrid fleet vehicle placed  
61 into service on or after July 1, 2019. An applicant is eligible  
62 to receive a maximum rebate of \$25,000 per vehicle, up to a  
63 total of \$250,000 per fiscal year. Between June 1 and June 30 of  
64 each fiscal year, the department may receive additional  
65 applications from applicants who have met the program maximum of  
66 \$250,000 per fiscal year. Those applicants may apply for  
67 additional funds for vehicles that have not received a rebate,  
68 for a maximum rebate of \$25,000 per vehicle, up to a total of  
69 \$250,000. Governmental applicants have preference, and any other  
70 remaining funds may be used by commercial applicants. Rebates  
71 must be allocated to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-  
72 served basis, as determined by the date the department receives  
73 the application, until all appropriated funds for the fiscal  
74 year are expended.

75 (4) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

76 (a) An applicant seeking to obtain a rebate must submit an  
77 application to the department by a specified date each year, as  
78 established by department rule. The application must require a  
79 complete description of all eligible costs, proof of purchase of  
80 or lease of the vehicle for which the applicant is seeking a  
81 rebate, a copy of the vehicle registration certificate, a  
82 description of the total rebate the applicant seeks, and any  
83 other information the department deems necessary. The  
84 application form adopted by department rule must include an  
85 affidavit from the applicant certifying that all information  
86 contained in the application is true and correct.

87 (b) The department shall determine each applicant's rebate

10-01231-19

20191368\_\_

88 eligibility in accordance with the requirements of this section  
89 and department rule. The total amount of rebates allocated to  
90 applicants in each fiscal year may not exceed the amount of  
91 funds appropriated for the program in a fiscal year. The  
92 department must allocate rebates to eligible applicants on a  
93 first-come, first-served basis, as determined by the date each  
94 application is received, until all appropriated funds for the  
95 fiscal year are expended or the program ends, whichever comes  
96 first. Incomplete applications submitted to the department will  
97 not be accepted and do not secure a place in the first-come,  
98 first-served application process.

99 (5) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules by December 31,  
100 2019, to implement and administer this section including rules  
101 relating to the forms required to claim a rebate under this  
102 section, the required documentation and basis for establishing  
103 eligibility for a rebate, the procedures and guidelines for  
104 claiming a rebate, and the collection of economic impact data  
105 from applicants.

106 (6) PUBLICATION.—The department shall determine and publish  
107 on its website, on an ongoing basis, the amount of available  
108 funding for rebates remaining in each fiscal year.

109 (7) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—By October 1, 2020, and each year  
110 thereafter in which the program is funded, the department shall  
111 provide an annual assessment of the use of the rebate program  
112 during the previous fiscal year to the Governor, the President  
113 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
114 the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
115 Accountability. The assessment must include, at a minimum, all  
116 of the following information:

10-01231-19

20191368\_\_

117       (a) The name of each applicant awarded a rebate under this  
118 section.

119       (b) The amount of the rebates awarded to each applicant.

120       (c) The type and description of each eligible vehicle for  
121 which each applicant applied for a rebate.

122       (d) The aggregate amount of funding awarded for all  
123 applicants claiming rebates under this section.

124       Section 2. Beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and each  
125 year thereafter through the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$6  
126 million in recurring funds is appropriated in each fiscal year  
127 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture  
128 and Consumer Services to fund the natural gas fuel fleet vehicle  
129 rebate program created pursuant to s. 377.810, Florida Statutes.

130       Section 3. Beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and each  
131 year thereafter through the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$3  
132 million in recurring funds is appropriated in each fiscal year  
133 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture  
134 and Consumer Services to fund the electric and hybrid fleet  
135 vehicle rebate program pursuant to s. 377.813, Florida Statutes,  
136 as created by this act.

137       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.