

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH10165-RT-3 (03/09)

Short Title: Mercury Switch Removal Prgm. Amends. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Allen and Gibson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING THE REMOVAL OF MERCURY SWITCHES FROM VEHICLES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-310.50 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-310.50. Definitions.**

As used in this Part:

- (1) ~~"Capture rate" means the annual removal, collection, and recovery of mercury switches as a percentage of the total number of mercury switches available for removal from end of life vehicles.~~
- (2) "End-of-life vehicle" means a vehicle that is sold, given, or otherwise conveyed to a vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap metal recycling vehicle processing facility for the purpose of recycling.
- (2a) "Inaccessible", when used in connection with mercury switch, means that, due to the condition of the vehicle, the mercury switch cannot be removed from a vehicle without a significant risk of a release of mercury into the environment.
- (3) ~~"Manufacturer" means a person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, combination, or joint venture that is the last person in the production or assembly process of a new vehicle that utilizes mercury switches, or in the case of an imported vehicle, the importer or domestic distributor of the vehicle.~~
- (4) ~~"Mercury minimization plan" means a plan for removing, collecting, and recovering mercury switches from end of life vehicles that is prepared as provided in G.S. 130A-310.53.~~

- 1 (5) "Mercury switch" means each ~~mercury containing capsule, capsule or~~  
2 assembly containing mercury commonly known as a "bullet", that is  
3 part of a convenience light switch assembly installed in a vehicle.
- 4 (5a) "Mercury recovery performance ratio" means the ratio of the number  
5 of pounds of mercury recovered from mercury switches from the State  
6 in a calendar year to the estimated number of pounds of mercury  
7 available to be recovered from mercury switches from the State in the  
8 same calendar year.
- 9 (5b) "NVMSRP" means the Memorandum of Understanding to establish  
10 the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program dated 11  
11 August 2006.
- 12 (6) "Scrap metal ~~recycling~~ vehicle processing facility" means a fixed  
13 location where machinery and equipment are used to process scrap  
14 metal ~~vehicles~~ into specific grades of scrap metal for sale and whose  
15 primary product is scrap iron, scrap steel, or nonferrous metallic  
16 scrap specification grade commodities including facilities where a  
17 shredder or fragmentizer is used to process scrap vehicles into  
18 shredded scrap and facilities where end-of-life vehicles are prepared to  
19 be shredded.
- 20 (7) "Vehicle" means any passenger automobile or passenger car, station  
21 wagon, truck, van, or sport utility vehicle with a gross vehicle weight  
22 rating of less than 12,000 pounds.
- 23 (7a) "Vehicle crusher" means a person who engages in the business of  
24 flattening, crushing, or otherwise processing end-of-life vehicles for  
25 recycling. Vehicle crusher includes, but is not limited to, a person who  
26 uses fixed or mobile equipment to flatten or crush end-of-life vehicles  
27 for a vehicle recycler or a scrap vehicle processing facility.
- 28 (7b) "Vehicle dismantler" has the same meaning as "vehicle recycler."
- 29 (7c) "Vehicle manufacturer" means a person, firm, association, partnership,  
30 corporation, governmental entity, organization, combination, or joint  
31 venture that owns or operates the final production or assembly process  
32 of a motor vehicle that contains one or more mercury switches, or in  
33 the case of an imported vehicle, the importer or domestic distributor of  
34 the vehicle. "Vehicle manufacturer" does not include any person  
35 engaged in the business of selling new motor vehicles at retail or any  
36 person who converts or modifies new motor vehicles after the  
37 production or assembly process.
- 38 (8) "Vehicle recycler" means ~~an a individual person~~ or entity engaged in  
39 the business of acquiring, dismantling, or destroying six or more  
40 end-of-life vehicles in a calendar year for the primary purpose of resale  
41 of parts of the ~~vehicle.~~ vehicle, including scrap metal."

42 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-310.52 is repealed.

43 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-310.53 reads as rewritten:

44 **"§ 130A-310.53. Removal of mercury switches from end-of-life vehicles.**

1       (a) ~~A vehicle recycler that conveys ownership of an end-of-life vehicle to a scrap~~  
2 ~~metal recycling facility shall remove all mercury switches identified in the mercury~~  
3 ~~minimization plan prior to delivery of the vehicle to the scrap metal recycling facility. If~~  
4 ~~a mercury switch is inaccessible, the fact that the mercury switch remains in the vehicle~~  
5 ~~shall be noted on the vehicle recycler's invoice. A vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler,~~  
6 ~~vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility shall not flatten, crush, bale, or~~  
7 ~~shred an end-of-life vehicle that contains accessible mercury switches. Except as~~  
8 ~~provided in this subsection, a vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or~~  
9 ~~scrap vehicle processing facility shall remove all accessible mercury switches from~~  
10 ~~end-of-life vehicles before the vehicle is flattened, crushed, baled, or shredded, or~~  
11 ~~before the vehicle is conveyed to another vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle~~  
12 ~~recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility. If a vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler,~~  
13 ~~vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility conveys an end-of-life vehicle to~~  
14 ~~another vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing~~  
15 ~~facility without removing accessible mercury switches, the receiving vehicle crusher,~~  
16 ~~vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility must agree to~~  
17 ~~accept the end-of-life vehicle and assume responsibility for the proper removal of all~~  
18 ~~accessible mercury switches. The agreement to assume responsibility for the proper~~  
19 ~~removal of all accessible mercury switches shall be documented on an invoice that is~~  
20 ~~provided by the vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle~~  
21 ~~processing facility to the person to whom the vehicle is conveyed.~~

22       (b) ~~A scrap metal recycling facility that accepts an end-of-life vehicle that has not~~  
23 ~~been flattened, crushed, baled, or shredded and that contains mercury switches shall~~  
24 ~~remove the mercury switches before the end-of-life vehicle is flattened, crushed, baled,~~  
25 ~~or shredded unless the mercury switch is inaccessible. A vehicle crusher, vehicle~~  
26 ~~dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility that removes all~~  
27 ~~accessible mercury switches from an end-of-life vehicle shall mark the vehicle to~~  
28 ~~indicate that all accessible mercury switches have been removed. If an end-of-life~~  
29 ~~vehicle contains an inaccessible mercury switch, the vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler,~~  
30 ~~vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility must mark the vehicle to indicate~~  
31 ~~that the vehicle contains an inaccessible mercury switch and must note the fact that the~~  
32 ~~vehicle contains an inaccessible mercury switch on an invoice that is provided to any~~  
33 ~~person to whom the vehicle is conveyed.~~

34       (c) ~~A mercury switch is inaccessible if, due to the condition of the vehicle, the~~  
35 ~~switch cannot be removed in accordance with the mercury minimization plan and~~  
36 ~~removal of the switch would significantly increase the risk of a release of mercury into~~  
37 ~~the environment.~~

38       (d) ~~A vehicle recycler or scrap metal recycling facility that removes mercury~~  
39 ~~switches pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall make quarterly reports to~~  
40 ~~the Department on the following:~~

41           (1) ~~The number of vehicles that it processed for recycling.~~

42           (2) ~~The number of vehicles from which it removed a mercury switch by~~  
43 ~~make.~~

1           (3) ~~The number of vehicles for which it could not remove the mercury~~  
2           ~~switch because the switch was inaccessible.~~

3           (e) Mercury switches that are removed from end-of-life vehicles are considered  
4 "universal waste" as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 273.9 (1 July 2004  
5 2006 Edition). Mercury switches that are removed from end-of-life vehicles shall be  
6 collected, transported, treated, stored, disposed of, and otherwise handled in accordance  
7 with rules adopted by the Commission governing universal waste.

8           (f) Vehicle manufacturers, in cooperation with the Department, shall develop,  
9 implement, and bear the costs of a mercury switch collection system in accordance with  
10 the NVMSRP. This system shall be developed and implemented so as to enhance  
11 vehicle recyclability, promote public education and outreach, and provide for the proper  
12 removal, collection, and disposal of mercury switches from end-of-life vehicles."

13           **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-310.54 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 130A-310.54. Funds to implement plan.**~~Mercury Switch Removal Account.~~

15           (a) The Mercury ~~Pollution Prevention~~Switch Removal Account is established in  
16 the Department. Revenue is credited to the Account from the certificate of title fee  
17 under G.S. 20-85.

18           (b) Revenue in the Mercury ~~Pollution Prevention~~Switch Removal Account shall  
19 be used to reimburse the Department and others for costs incurred in implementing the  
20 mercury ~~minimization plan~~switch removal program. The reimbursable costs are:

21           (1) Five dollars (\$5.00) for each mercury switch removed by a vehicle  
22 crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle ~~reeycler~~ recycler, or scrap metal  
23 recyclingvehicle processing facility pursuant to this Article.~~Article and~~  
24 sent to destination facilities in accordance with the NVMSRP for  
25 recycling or disposal.

26           (2) Costs incurred by the Department in administering the ~~plan~~program.

27           (c) The Department shall reimburse vehicle ~~reeyclers~~crushers, vehicle  
28 dismantlers, vehicle recyclers, and scrap metal ~~reeycling~~ vehicle processing  
29 facilities based on the quarterly reports submitted under G.S. 130A-310.53. The Department may  
30 request any information needed to determine the accuracy of the reports.~~a~~  
31 reimbursement request that attests to the number of switches sent to destination facilities  
32 for recycling or disposal in accordance with the NVMSRP. Each reimbursement request  
33 shall be verified against information posted on the Internet site provided by the vehicle  
34 manufacturers in accordance with the NVMSRP. The vehicle crusher, vehicle  
35 dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle processing facility shall provide the  
36 Department with any information needed to verify the accuracy of a reimbursement  
37 request. Each vehicle crusher, vehicle dismantler, vehicle recycler, or scrap vehicle  
38 processing facility shall maintain accurate records that support each reimbursement  
39 request for a minimum of three years from the date the reimbursement request is  
40 approved."

41           **SECTION 5.** G.S. 130A-310.55 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 130A-310.55. Violations of Article; enforcement.**

43           (a) It is unlawful for a person to do any of the following:

- 1 (1) Knowingly flatten, crush, bale, shred, or otherwise alter the condition  
2 of a vehicle from which accessible mercury switches have not been  
3 removed, in any manner that would prevent or significantly hinder the  
4 removal of a mercury switch.
- 5 (2) Willfully fail to remove a mercury switch when the person is required  
6 to do so.
- 7 (3) Knowingly make a false report that a mercury switch has been  
8 removed from an end-of-life vehicle.
- 9 (4) Obtain a mercury switch from another source and falsely report that it  
10 was removed from a vehicle processed for recycling.

11 (b) ~~This Part may be enforced as provided in Part 2 of Article 1 of this Chapter.~~  
12 Any person who violates subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall be  
13 punished as provided in G.S. 14-3.

14 (c) Any person who violates subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this  
15 section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished  
16 as provided in G.S. 130A-26.2.

17 (d) A violation of any provision of this Part, any rule adopted pursuant to this  
18 Part, or any rule governing universal waste may be enforced by an administrative or  
19 civil action as provided in Part 2 of Article 1 of this Chapter."

20 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 130A-310.56 is repealed.

21 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 130A-310.57 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 130A-310.57. ~~Report on plan.~~Reports.**

23 The Department shall ~~publish~~ submit an annual report on the mercury ~~minimization~~  
24 ~~plans~~ switch removal program under this Part to the Environmental Review Commission  
25 and the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural  
26 and Economic Resources on or before ~~November 1,~~ 1 October of each year. The report  
27 shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 28 (1) A detailed description ~~and documentation~~ of the mercury recovery  
29 performance ratio ~~capture rate achieved~~ achieved by the mercury  
30 switch removal program.
- 31 (1a) A detailed description of the mercury switch collection system  
32 developed and implemented by vehicle manufacturers in accordance  
33 with the NVMSRP.
- 34 (2) In the event that a ~~capture rate~~ mercury recovery performance ratio  
35 at least ~~ninety percent (90%)~~ 0.90 or greater is not achieved, a  
36 description of additional or alternative actions that may be  
37 implemented to improve the mercury ~~minimization plan and its~~  
38 ~~implementation.~~ switch removal program.
- 39 (3) The number of mercury switches ~~collected, the number of end of life~~  
40 ~~vehicles containing mercury switches, the number of end of life~~  
41 ~~vehicles processed for recycling,~~ collected and a description of how  
42 the mercury switches were managed.
- 43 (4) A statement that details the costs required to implement the mercury  
44 ~~minimization plan.~~ switch removal program including a summary of

1                   receipts and disbursements from the Mercury Switch Removal  
2                   Account."

3                   **SECTION 8.** Sections 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 of this act become effective when this  
4 act becomes law. Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this act become effective 1 July 2007. The  
5 Department shall submit the first annual report required by G.S. 130A-310.57, as  
6 enacted by Section 7 of this act, on or before 1 October 2008. This act expires on 31  
7 December 2017.