AN ACT relating to environmental protection; requiring the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish a program to use certain settlement money received from the Volkswagen Corporation and its subsidiaries; requiring the program to include priorities and other provisions for administering the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
1 The United States District Court for the Northern District of California recently approved two partial consent decrees in litigation between the United States Department of Justice and the Volkswagen Corporation and its subsidiaries regarding the installation and use of emissions testing devices in many vehicles sold and operated in the United States. One provision of the partial consent decrees requires the Volkswagen Corporation to fund a Mitigation Trust, the money from which will be disbursed to each state based on the number of affected vehicles which were sold in each of those states. The money must be used to defray the cost of projects intended to offset the excess emissions of nitrogen oxides caused by the vehicles. (Partial Consent Decree, In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, No. MDL No. 2672 CRB, (N.D. Cal. Sept. 30, 2016) and Second Partial Consent Decree, In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, No. MDL No. 2672 CRB, (N.D. Cal. Dec. 20, 2016))
2 This bill requires the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in consultation with the
Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation, to develop a program for distributing money from the Mitigation Trust to assist residents of this State and local governmental entities in this State in repowering the engines of certain vehicles with new diesel, alternate fueled or all-electric engines, or replacing certain vehicles with new diesel, alternate fueled or all-electric vehicles, to the extent that such repowering or replacing is authorized by the terms of the consent decrees. The program developed by the Division must include a preference for repowering or replacing vehicles: (1) which are equipped with engines that were manufactured not later than 2006; (2) with over 200,000 miles registered on the odometer; (3) operated by and for a small business or a school district; and (4) which have been operated in this State for not less than one half of the time the vehicle has been owned by the current owner. Distributions of money to a local governmental entity for repower or replacement of an eligible vehicle must be limited to not more than 80 percent of the cost of such repowering or replacing.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 1. The Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in its role as lead agency on behalf of this State designated as required in section 4.2.1 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree, shall, upon a determination of Beneficiary status pursuant to section 4.0 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree, prepare and submit a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan as required by section 4.1 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree, which includes, without limitation, the provisions of subsections 2 and 3 to the extent that such provisions are permissible under the requirements of the Partial Consent Decree and the Second Partial Consent Decree.

2. The Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation, shall develop a program for distributing money received from the Mitigation Trust to residents of this State and local governmental entities in this State to assist residents of this State and local governmental entities in this State to:

(a) Replace with a new diesel, alternate fueled or all-electric vehicle; or

(b) Repower with a new diesel, alternate fueled or all-electric engine,

any vehicles that are eligible for replacement or repowering under the terms of the Partial Consent Decree. The Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources may award grants or subgrants of money to any resident of this State, a local governmental entity or other person or entity to carry out the provisions of the program.
3. The program developed pursuant to subsection 2 must include, without limitation:
   (a) Priorities for the distribution of available money which incorporate a preference for replacing or repowering a vehicle:
      (1) Which is equipped with an engine that was manufactured not later than 2006.
      (2) With over 200,000 miles registered on the odometer.
      (3) Operated by and for a small business or a school district.
      (4) Which has been operated in this State for not less than one half of the time the vehicle has been owned by the current owner.
   (b) A limitation on the amount of money a local governmental entity may receive to repower or replace a vehicle owned by the local governmental entity, which must not exceed 80 percent of the cost to repower or replace the vehicle.
   (c) A procedure by which the owner of an eligible vehicle may apply to participate in the program.
   (d) Any documents or other evidence which the owner of an eligible vehicle must provide, if applicable, to prove to the satisfaction of the Division or its designee that the vehicle meets one or more of the criteria in paragraph (a).
4. As used in this section:
   (a) “Beneficiary” has the meaning ascribed to it in section 1.1 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree.
   (b) “Beneficiary Mitigation Plan” means the submittal required of a Beneficiary pursuant to section 4.1 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree.
   (c) “Mitigation Trust” means the trust established by section 2.0.1 of Appendix D to the Partial Consent Decree and funded pursuant to paragraph 14 of the Partial Consent Decree, paragraph 17 of the Second Partial Consent Decree and any subsequent amendments to the Partial Consent Decree.
   (f) “Small business” means a business conducted for profit in this State which employs not more than 50 employees.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.