SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Prohibits sale or use of two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Punishes violation by maximum fine of $1,000. Becomes operative January 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to leaf blowers.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds that:
(a) Two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers are harmful to the environment and to public and operator health;
(b) Two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers burn only 60 to 70 percent of the gas and oil mixture used as fuel for the leaf blowers, resulting in emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, butadiene and acetaldehyde, all of which are harmful to human health and some of which are known carcinogens;
(c) Smog shortens the lifespans of people exposed to it on a regular basis, and two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers emit smog-creating hydrocarbons at a rate far greater than many gasoline-powered automobiles;
(d) Two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers often have an operating volume that exceeds decibel levels known to cause damage to the ear and have been identified as common contributors to permanent hearing loss; and
(e) Elevated noise levels can lead to stress, anxiety, depression, high blood pressure and heart disease.
(2) The Legislative Assembly declares that it is therefore in the interest of the public and of landscape equipment operators to eliminate the use of two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers in this state.

SECTION 2. (1) No person shall sell or offer to sell or give as a sales inducement in this state a two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blower.
(2) No person shall use a two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blower.
(3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prevents wholesale transactions, including but not limited to the transportation, warehousing, sale and delivery of two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers.
(4) Violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section is a Class B violation.


NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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