

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 795 (Archuleta)
As Amended August 28, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to adopt regulations governing the labeling and safe use of E15 fuel blends with vapor control systems and their components, on or before December 31, 2026, as specified. This bill also authorizes vapor control systems and components dispensing E10 fuel to also dispense E15 fuel if the manufacturer submits a statement of compatibility, until January 1, 2029. This bill requires gas stations dispensing E15 fuel to comply with labeling required by the SFM.

Major Provisions

- 1) Authorizes, until January 1, 2029, any enhanced vapor control system at gasoline dispensing facilities suitable for gasoline blends and ethanol blends containing 10% ethanol, as specified, to be approved for the use of gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol without the need for certification, as specified.
- 2) Requires, by December 31, 2026, the SFM to adopt regulations governing the labeling and safe use of gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol with vapor control systems and their components that have been authorized for use, as specified.
- 3) Requires the SFM to review the California Fire Code to ensure consistency with the above provisions related to regulations and propose conforming changes to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC); requires the CBSC to adopt the regulations as emergency regulations, as specified.
- 4) Requires the initial adoption of the above regulations to be deemed an emergency, as specified, and requires these emergency regulations to stay in effect until amended by the SFM.
- 5) Authorizes, until January 1, 2029, vapor control systems and their components that are certified or approved, as specified, for use with gasoline and ethanol blends containing 10% ethanol to also be used with gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol if the manufacturer of the equipment submits a statement of compatibility, signed under penalty of perjury, as specified. Requires the State Air Resources Board to publish a list of manufacturers who have submitted a statement of compatibility, as specified, on its internet website.
- 6) Requires, until January 1, 2029, a service station, dispensing an ethanol blend containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol to comply with SFM labeling requirements, as specified, and provides an exemption to systems or components already certified by the SFM, as specified.
- 7) Prohibits, until January 1, 2029, a gasoline dispensing facility that meets the above requirements from being required to obtain new or amended certification, listing, permit, or

approval solely for dispensing gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol

- 8) Requires, until January 1, 2029, that any enhanced vapor control system at gasoline dispensing facilities suitable for gasoline and ethanol blends containing 10% ethanol be deemed certified or approved for the use of gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% ethanol and up to 15% ethanol if the manufacturer of the equipment submits a statement of compatibility, as specified.
- 9) Requires, until January 1, 2029, that any device used for dispensing flammable liquids with an ethanol content of up to 10% be approved for purposes of occupational safety and health standards and orders for the use of gasoline and ethanol blends containing more than 10% ethanol and up to 15% ethanol if the manufacturer of the equipment submits a statement of compatibility, as specified.

COMMENTS

E15 Approval in California: Governor Newsom signed AB 30 (Alvarez) Chapter 247, Statutes of 2025, authorizing access to E15 into law. However, AB 30 did not revise regulations that would authorize gas stations to dispense E15. This bill (SB 795) proposes implementation measures to rectify this issue. This proposal changes how compatibility is demonstrated—not whether equipment must be safe. A manufacturer must affirmatively determine that its equipment is safe for E15 and submit that determination under penalty of perjury. The SFM retains authority over safe-use requirements and labeling. Following AB 30 (Alvarez, 2025), which authorized the sale of gasoline containing 10.5-15% ethanol, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued implementation guidance and established a process for certifying E15-compatibility vapor-recovery equipment, while continuing its multimedia evaluation needed for *permanent* E15 fuel specifications.¹ Based on the E15 multimedia evaluation by the ARB and the information provided in the Final Tier I, Tier II and Tier III reports, the use of E15 does not pose a significant adverse impact on public health or the environment compared to E10.² SB 795 provides the statutory language to make AB 30 work in the state of California.

Gasoline Regulations: Under California regulations, manufacturers of gasoline vapor control systems must submit components of the system for certification. The State Fire Marshal (SFM) is the agency responsible for determining whether the components or systems create a fire hazard. The SFM is principally concerned with whether the equipment (system and components) used to store, transfer, and dispense the fuel is compatible with the higher ethanol blend. The ARB regulates the fuel-quality and emissions requirements for E15 California's Reformulated Gasoline (CaRFG) regulations and certifies vapor-recovery systems and components used to dispense. Along with Cal/OSHA and DMS, the SFM may certify any system or component which complies with their adopted rules and regulations.

According to this bill, the SFM would adopt regulations governing E15 labeling and safe use, with labeling mirroring federal standards, and review the California Fire Code for necessary

¹ AB30 Legislation Passage and Steps To Obtain E15 Certification Of Vapor Recovery Components And Eco Nozzle/Low-Perm Hoses, <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/E15CertProcess.pdf>

² California Multimedia Evaluation of Gasoline Containing up to 15 percent Ethanol - Staff Written Summary, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/E15_MMWG_Staff_Written_Summary_Final_12-11-2025.pdf

conforming changes. As current bill language stands, this bill authorizes any station that dispenses E10 fuel is permitted to dispense E15 fuel and voids the need for gas stations to obtain a new or updated certification from any agency solely based on dispensing E15 fuel. The SFM would be required to update regulations governing the labeling and safe use of E15.

E10 vs E15 Fuel Blends: CaRFG regulations permit the sale of gasoline with up to 10% ethanol by volume (E10). An existing fuel specification permits the sale of ethanol fuel blends with up to 85% ethanol (E85).³ There are no changes to the requirements for these fuels. E10 blends are low-level gasoline-ethanol blends composed of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. E10 is approved for use in any conventional, gasoline-powered vehicle across the U.S. and in California (using the CARBOB blendstock).⁴ E15 blends are defined as gasoline blended with 10.5% to 15% ethanol.

Currently, vehicles approved for E15 use include flexible fuel vehicles and conventional vehicles model year 2001 and newer, which make up approximately 97% of vehicles on the road in California.^{5,6,7} Vehicles older than model year 2001, motorcycles, lawnmowers and other types of off-road equipment, delivery trucks, or other types of heavy-duty vehicles are prohibited from using E15. E15 is available today at more than 4,800 retail stations in 36 states.⁵ Although E15 burns cleaner than gasoline, it also increases the volatility of the fuel (ethanol is an alcohol that evaporates more quickly than most gasoline components), often leading to more ground-level air pollution.

According to the Author

"California has taken important steps to expand fuel supply and provide consumers with more affordable options at the pump, including authorizing the sale of gasoline blends containing more than 10% and up to 15% ethanol. However, existing equipment approval requirements could unnecessarily delay the availability of these fuels at California gas stations. SB 795 removes this unnecessary barrier by allowing equipment already certified or approved for E10 gasoline to be used for E15 when manufacturers attest, under penalty of perjury, that the equipment is compatible and safe for use with E15. The measure also maintains appropriate labeling and safety requirements and temporarily eliminates the need for duplicative state approvals solely because a station begins dispensing E15. By streamlining these requirements, SB 795 will help make E15 available to California consumers more quickly, increasing fuel options and supporting efforts to reduce gasoline prices."

Arguments in Support

A coalition of organizations, including the Renewable Fuels Association, Cal Chamber, and the League of California Cities, write in support expressing SB 795 builds on the action from AB 30, by "providing regulatory clarity for fuel retailers and equipment manufacturers so Californians can realize the benefits of a lower-cost, lower-emission fuel option", also noting that SB 795

³ The California Reformulated Gasoline Regulation, Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Sections 2250-2273.5, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/California_Reformulated_Gasoline_Regulations_2-16-14.pdf

⁴ AB 30 Frequently Asked Questions, <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/fact-sheets/ab-30-frequently-asked-questions>

⁵ Alternative Fuels Data Center, E15 <https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/ethanol-e15>

⁶ Ethanol in Your Engine, E15, <https://ethanolrfa.org/ethanol-in-your-engine/e15>

⁷ E15 Fuel Registration, <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/e15-fuel-registration>

"does not waive safety requirements and provides regulatory certainty to implement the E15 policy the Legislature unanimously supported while maintaining strong safety protections."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

A fiscal committee has not yet heard this bill.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0**

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 7-0-0

YES: Ransom, Hadwick, Arambula, Bains, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

UPDATED

VERSION: August 28, 2026

CONSULTANT: Ryan Fleming and Ugbad Farah / E.M. / (916) 319-3802

FN: 0004547