

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 915 (Delegate Cox, *et al.*)  
Environment and Transportation

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Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Extension - Out-of-State Students

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This bill requires that the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) inspection and testing deadline be extended for a vehicle owned (or driven primarily) by an individual who is a student enrolled in an out-of-state school, summer education program, or volunteer program. An extension may not be granted if it is prohibited by federal law. The bill also specifies qualification and certification requirements. The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must waive any late fees incurred for failure to have a motor vehicle inspected and tested if the owner (or primary driver) is a qualified out-of-state student and has the vehicle inspected and tested within 60 days of the first late notice. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

### Bill Summary:

#### *Extension Periods*

The bill requires MVA to extend the VEIP inspection and testing deadline to specified time periods, depending on the classification of the student. **Exhibit 1** shows the required VEIP deadline periods under the bill.

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### Exhibit 1 Required VEIP Inspection and Testing Deadlines Under the Bill

<u>Student Type</u>	<u>Required VEIP Extension Deadline (After Receipt of Inspection Notice)</u>
Out-of-state student	To the following June 1-July 31
Out-of-state summer education program or summer volunteer	To the following December 1-January 31
Out-of-state student <i>and</i> summer education or summer volunteer program	To the following December 1-January 31

VEIP: Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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To qualify for an extension, the owner (or primary driver) of the motor vehicle must:

- certify that the individual is the owner (or primary driver) of the vehicle;
- provide MVA with a copy of the current insurance policy for the vehicle that identifies the individual as the owner (or primary driver) of the vehicle;
- certify that the individual is currently enrolled in an out-of-state school, summer education program, or summer volunteer program; and
- certify that the vehicle (1) is (or will be) outside of the State with the individual when the vehicle is scheduled to be inspected or (2) is not being driven regularly while the individual is outside of the State.

**Current Law:** In response to requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, Maryland has operated VEIP in various parts of the State since 1984. All model year 1977 and newer vehicles in the State, unless specifically exempt, must be inspected and tested every two years. MVA and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must set the VEIP fee for each vehicle to be inspected and tested, which may not exceed \$14. The current fee is \$14.

**Exhibit 2** shows the required tests by vehicle type and model year.

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Required VEIP Tests by**  
**Model Year and Vehicle Weight**

<u>Required Tests</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Vehicle Weight</u>
Gas Cap Test	1977 through 1995	8,501-26,000 pounds
On-board Diagnostic Test	1996 and newer (powered by gasoline or propane)	8,500 pounds or less
	2008 and newer (heavy duty vehicles)	8,501-14,000 pounds
Idle Exhaust Emissions Test	1977 through 1995 (powered by gasoline or propane)	8,501-26,000 pounds
	2008 and newer (heavy duty vehicles)	14,001-26,000 pounds

VEIP: Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

Source: Motor Vehicle Administration

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Certain types of vehicles are currently exempt from VEIP, including:

- vehicles with a model year of 1976 or earlier;
- vehicles weighing more than 26,000 pounds (gross vehicle weight);
- vehicles powered solely by diesel or electric;
- motorcycles;

- vehicles registered as farm trucks, farm truck tractors, or farm area vehicles;
- historic or antique vehicles;
- new vehicles and qualified hybrids for the first 36 months after titling and registration;
- any fire apparatus owned or leased by the State of Maryland, a county, municipality, or volunteer fire department or rescue squad;
- ambulances;
- vehicles registered to owners age 70 or older, or vehicles registered with hard metal disabled tags, that are driven 5,000 miles per year or less (if co-owned, both owners must qualify for the waiver, and mileage must be recertified every two years to continue to receive the waiver);
- vehicles registered as Class N (street rod);
- military vehicles owned by the federal government and used for tactical, combat, or relief operations, or for training for these operations; and
- vehicles registered as Class H (school vehicle) or Class P (passenger bus).

**Background:** All vehicles registered in Maryland (in nonattainment areas for pollutants under the federal Clean Air Act, unless specifically exempt) must undergo VEIP inspections. According to MVA, motorists drive approximately 135 million miles in Maryland daily, an amount that increases each year. VEIP ensures vehicles are operating efficiently and, thus, reduces air pollution created by vehicle emissions (a major component of smog). VEIP is jointly administered by MVA and MDE. MVA is responsible for collection of motorist test fees and payment of operations contractor fees.

MVA [regulations](#) allow VEIP extensions to be granted in specified circumstances.

According to MVA and MDE, there are numerous administrative processes for an individual to obtain test date extensions. MVA allows [requests for extensions](#) to be submitted online, in person, or by telephone. If an extension is granted, late fees are not assessed.

MDE advises that an out-state-student can utilize four major avenues to obtain an extension or otherwise come into compliance with VEIP.

- A one-year extension for students is available by completing a certification form, having a school administrator sign it, and forwarding it to MVA.
- A four-month extension may be applied for via email, website, or telephone. Two additional four-month extensions are also allowed.
- The VEIP test may be administered up to six months prior to the due date.
- The vehicle may be tested in another state and the test report forwarded to MVA.

**State Fiscal Effect:** MVA advises that it does not expect Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues to be affected by the bill, as there are already several existing ways for out-of-state students to obtain a VEIP extension. While the bill requires MVA to waive any late fees for an out-of-state student who has his or her vehicle tested within 60 days of the first late notice, MVA advises it already waives such fees for out-of-state students in some circumstances. To the extent that additional extensions are granted as a result of the bill, TTF revenues may be delayed. Likewise, to the extent that additional late fees are waived, TTF revenues may decrease minimally.

MVA can process any additional extension requests with existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2019  
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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510