



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary Designate
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

February 09, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 312 – Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection Fee

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) would like to offer the following information on House Bill 312.

Electrification of the transportation sector is essential if Maryland is to meet its air quality and climate change goals as transportation accounts for almost half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated in the State. However, in current markets, electric vehicles of all sizes and types are currently more expensive than conventionally powered cars, trucks, and buses. Additionally, adequate recharging infrastructure is also needed to support the widespread use of electric vehicles. Historically, the State has relied on rebates to help offset the increased cost of electric vehicles and provide for the infrastructure to recharge the vehicles. While rebates for electric vehicles and recharging infrastructure have been funded in the past, the funding levels have not been sufficient to support the demand. As we work to achieve our climate change goals, additional funding and new, dedicated funding sources for transportation decarbonization programs are critical.

The Department offers the following comments regarding HB 312:

- As drafted, the bill includes all vehicles currently exempted from the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) including pre-1977 model year vehicles, emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances, historic vehicles, and vehicles exempted due to the owner's age, disability, or military deployment status.
- Vehicles issued a VEIP repair waiver are also subject to paying the fee, which means some vehicle owners may pay twice (once for the initial VEIP fee and a second time under the bill after a VEIP repair is granted).
- MDE is unclear whether the bill's fee applies across all 24 Maryland counties or whether the fee is limited to the 14 counties subject to the VEIP program.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 312 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
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Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach

Gabrielle Leach

cc: The Honorable David Fraser-Hidalgo
Christopher R. Hoagland, Air and Radiation Administration