



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building – Room 251
Annapolis, Md 21401

Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in favor of HB 312 – the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection - Fee.

HB 312 establishes a fee of fourteen dollars to be collected once every two years on each motor vehicle registered in the state that is granted an exemption from the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). The fee is required to be deposited in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) where it will be used to provide rebates on the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure, and the sale and purchase of electric vehicles.

Maryland drivers are required to have their vehicles inspected every two years at a VEIP station to comply with emissions standards. The VEIP testing was originally adopted in Maryland to reduce vehicle emissions that negatively impact our state's air quality.¹ Some vehicles are permanently exempted from emissions testing, such as vehicles from 1995 or older and historic or antique vehicles.²

Greenhouse gas emissions and related air pollutants have lasting and harmful consequences on our community's health. A 2019 study found a strong correlation between ozone and fine particulate pollution and emergency room visits among all age groups.³ In 2018 according to the Maryland Department of Health there were 29,534 asthma-related emergency department visits in Maryland; and among children under five the emergency room visit rate was 119.4 per 10,000 residents.⁴

¹ Maryland Department of the Environment, *About the VEIP Program*. (n.d.), [VEIP About Our Program \(maryland.gov\)](http://www.maryland.gov)

² Motor Vehicle Administration, *VEIP – General Requirements*. Maryland Department of Transportation (n.d.), https://mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/Pages/info/58000VEI/58000-06T.aspx#appendix_c

³ Heather M. Strosnider, Howard H. Change, Lyndsey A. Darrow, Yang Liu, Ambarish Vaidyanathan, and Matthew J. Strickland, *Age-Specific Associations of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter with Respiratory Emergency Department Visits in the United States*. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (June 22, 2018), [Age-Specific Associations of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter with Respiratory Emergency Department Visits in the United States | American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine \(atsjournals.org\)](http://atsjournals.org)

⁴ Maryland Department of Health, Asthma. Environmental Health (n.d.), [Pages - Asthma \(maryland.gov\)](http://www.maryland.gov)

This cost Maryland \$27.7 billion in healthcare costs.⁵ The Department of Health reported in 2019 that chronic lower respiratory illnesses, including asthma, were the fifth leading cause of death in Maryland.⁶

An estimated 570,000 vehicles registered in Maryland are exempt from VEIP testing.⁷ These vehicles are contributing to greater greenhouse gas emissions without having to undergo testing at all.⁸ HB 312 addresses this issue by charging certain exempt vehicles the same fee that it would cost at a VEIP station, fourteen dollars, every two years to be deposited into SEIF. The fees will help Maryland achieve its carbon emissions goals by incentivizing the transition to electric vehicles. Everyone should have to pay the same fee for the shared benefit of clean and breathable air.

Respectfully,



Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

⁵ Id., at 4

⁶ Id., at 4

⁷ Id., at 1

⁸ Id.