



HB312 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Not Subject to Inspection - Fee

Testimony before

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 09, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mister Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Alexander and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. I am writing in support of HB312. We are grateful for the leadership of Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for sponsoring this bill which was introduced last year as HB46.

Transportation is Maryland's number one generator of greenhouse gas emissions which are causing global climate change and cause a wide variety of adverse health effects. Further, other toxins in fossil-fuel combustion emissions (nitrogen and sulfur oxides, ozone, and PM2.5 particulates) are directly associated with respiratory illnesses. In 2018, there were 29,534 asthma-related emergency department visits in Maryland, and chronic lower respiratory diseases (including asthma) were the fifth leading cause of death in the state costing the State \$27.7 billion in healthcare costs.

Maryland's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) requires non-exempt vehicles to go through emissions testing every two years, but 570,000 vehicles registered in the State are exempt from VEIP testing and the \$14 testing fee including historic vehicles, motorcycles, and diesel vehicles. Diesel exhaust is especially toxic. If these 570,000 vehicles were all subject to the \$14 fee, nearly \$8 million dollars could be raised every two years to support electric vehicle sales rebates and vehicle charging infrastructure.

Bill HB312 would establish a recurring \$14 fee on each motor vehicle registered in the State that is granted a waiver from, exempted from, or not subject to the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. This fee would then be deposited in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and used to provide rebates on the purchase of electric vehicles and expanding electric vehicle infrastructure.

If Maryland enacts HB312, a significant sum of revenue could be collected by the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to help off-set the costs of electric vehicle sales and electric vehicle infrastructure at a cost of less than TWO CENTS per day for these vehicle owners.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
15615 Camden Meadows Court
Woodbine, MD