



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: February 7, 2023

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

Position: **DOES NOT SUPPORT**

I am a motorcyclist, a registered voter, a coastal / civil engineer, small family farmer, and a member of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., the largest motorcyclist rights organization in the state of Maryland. ABATE represents the approximately 121,000 on road motorcycles that are registered in Maryland. We have chapters throughout the state and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We **DO NOT SUPPORT HB312** as it requires an additional fee to be collected from all currently VEIP Exempt vehicles.

Passing this bill in Maryland will require motorists to add one more fee to the registration renewal process in Maryland. Motorcycles currently spend \$104 for registration renewal every two years. The \$14 "Not Subject to Inspection Fee" will be yet another fee that must be paid just to drive on Maryland roadways. We already pay a gasoline tax of 43 cents per gallon (Maryland – up 7 cents from last year & the 4th highest in the NATION) and 18.4 cents per gallon (Federal) as a roadway user fee, a \$17 per year EMS surcharge on registrations. Many Maryland motorcyclists own additional vehicles, so the fee is compounded. For example, my household (which is typical for many households) includes the following:

- Motorcycles (2): \$208 (\$104 each)
- Passenger Cars (3): \$405 (\$135 each)
- Truck (1): \$161.50
- Trailers (3): \$153.00 (under 3,000 lbs., \$51 each)

If HB312 gets passed, it will be an additional \$84, for a total fee of \$1011.50.

In a time when Marylanders are trying to overcome financially challenging times, add to that a current slide of what feels like a depression, with supply chain shortages, and lack of employees filling vacant job openings, it just does not seem to be the correct time to add expenses to the average household.

Currently, emissions (VEIP) testing is required in 14 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Anne Arundel County | • Cecil County | • Montgomery County |
| • Baltimore City | • Charles County | • Prince George's County |
| • Baltimore County | • Frederick County | • Queen Anne's County |
| • Calvert County | • Harford County | • Washington County |
| • Carroll County | • Howard County | |

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HB 312 specifically lists the following vehicles as “This section applies to.”

(i) **A Class A** (passenger) vehicle;

ALL passenger cars (the original 14 + the 10 previously exempt jurisdictions)

ALL 1995 or older passenger cars (class A) (the original 14 + the 10 previously exempt jurisdictions)

(ii) **A Class D** (motorcycle) vehicle;

ALL motorcycles in the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland

(iii) **A Class M** (multipurpose) vehicle;

(iv) **A Class E** (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer’s rated capacity; or

Any one ton or less in this class includes

Pickups (150/250/350 or 1500/2500/3500 are included) - commercial fleets INCLUDED?

Farm trucks under one ton (that includes many of the smaller farm trucks)

Includes some tow trucks and rollbacks

Includes all of the smaller dump trucks

Could include fire company brush trucks, chief vehicles and smaller vehicles

(v) **A Class H, I, or J** vehicle that is specially equipped for the transportation of individuals with disabilities and is used exclusively for the transportation of individuals with disabilities.

Class H: School vehicles

Class I:

Class J: Vanpool vehicles

So, **HB312** appears to pull in **ALL** vehicles on the above list, from the following 10 counties that are currently exempt from VEIP testing:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| • Allegany | • Garrett | • St. Mary’s |
| • Caroline | • Kent | • Talbot |
| • Dorchester | • Somerset | |
| • Wicomico | • Worcester | |

HB312 also pulls in any vehicle that is on the exempted vehicles list that is included on the "This section applies to " list in the current VEIP required counties.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **DOES NOT SUPPORT** HB312, Vehicle Laws – Registration Renewal – Inspection Requirement. We urge the committee to consider an **UnFavorable vote**.

Sincerely,

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



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