



DATE: March 5, 2025
TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Peter Kitzmiller (President)
RE: SB 742 – Vehicle Laws – Inspection Requirement

The Maryland Automobile Dealers Association (MADA) represents over 300 franchised new car and truck dealers, and their 24,000 employees. We strongly support SB 742.

The Maryland State Police has created one of the best used vehicle safety inspection programs in the country, but this is only required when vehicle ownership is transferred. As the average price tag on new vehicle approaching \$40,000, the average lifespan of a used vehicle is at an all-time high – roughly 12 years. Ensuring the condition of these vehicles should be a public safety priority.

Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia all require either an annual or biennial inspection. Maryland is currently an outlier for Mid-Atlantic states. Our Maryland franchised dealers often praise the condition of vehicles from our neighboring states with safety inspections when accepting trade-ins. State safety inspections ensure that a vehicle is safe to operate in our communities and helps preserve value and longer life for vehicles. The better condition a vehicle is in also reduces the cost of vehicle repair at turnover too.

SB 742 provides the framework to improve vehicle safety by requiring a biennial inspection for vehicles that are at least 6 model years old. Maryland dealers know that if a safety inspection is not required, many Maryland car owners will decline necessary vehicle. MADA respectfully asks the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to give SB 742 a favorable report.