



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 5, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 742

Position: Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Vehicle Laws – Inspection Requirement

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to require a biennial inspection of a motor vehicle that is at least 6 model years old by an authorized inspection station. The inspection station shall issue an inspection certificate to the administration. This inspection certificate shall demonstrate that a motor vehicle meets or exceeds the equipment standards for equipment established in this legislation. The legislation exempts historic vehicles and vehicles required to be part of a preventive maintenance program.

Under current law, a used motor vehicle shall be inspected by a certified inspection mechanic working at an authorized inspection station prior to the vehicle being registered in this state. Historic vehicles are exempt from this requirement. Maryland only requires an inspection prior to the registration of a used vehicle regardless of age, not annually or biannually. The Department of State Police (DSP) is responsible for the establishment of the statewide inspection program. DSP tests and certifies the inspection mechanics and the stations used for the inspections. The DSP and MVA do not regulate the inspection fees. Inspection certificates expire after 90 days.

The state of Maryland also has a program in place for law enforcement officers to identify and potentially remove unsafe vehicles from the road. It is called the Safety Equipment Repair Order Program. Over 10,000 police officers in this state are able to stop a motor vehicle for any observed equipment violation and issue an order for repair and subsequent inspection. In 2024, there were over 95,000 repair orders issued by police officers. Inspection stations performed over 760,000 full vehicle inspections last year alone.

Regarding the specifics of SB 742, the inspection requirements would apply to over 3.6 million registered vehicles. There are 1,503 inspection stations certified to perform the required inspections. Equal access to inspectors and stations is limited. Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore have fewer stations than the Baltimore/Washington corridor thereby creating an inequitable ability to comply with the law.

In addition to their regular work, each inspection station would have to inspect on average at least 1,190 vehicles per year to ensure that owners can get their vehicles in compliance and renew their vehicle registrations.

The Maryland Department of State Police respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 742.