Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 81   (Senator Haines)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Seniors - Exemption

This bill modifies the existing exemption for the elderly under the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) by providing that, in the case of a motor vehicle owned in joint names of a husband and wife, the vehicle is exempt from the scheduled mandatory inspection if: (1) either spouse is at least 70 years of age at the time of a scheduled mandatory inspection; and (2) the vehicle meets the existing qualifications required for an exemption.

This bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue loss of $6,000 in FY 2000 and $72,000 annually beginning in FY 2001 because the bill will increase the number of vehicles that qualify for an exemption from the VEIP test and the current associated fee.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 480 of 1999 (HB 1038) provides that a motor vehicle owned by an individual who is at least 70 years of age is exempt from the mandatory inspection and testing requirements of VEIP if: (1) all of the owners of the vehicle are at least 70 years of age; (2) the motor vehicle is being driven 5,000 miles or less annually; and (3) the exemption is not otherwise prohibited by federal law.

In order to qualify for the exemption, all owners of the motor vehicle must certify: (1) that all owners of the vehicle are at least 70 years of age; (2) that the vehicle is being driven 5,000 miles or less annually; and (3) the current odometer reading.

Background: In response to requirements of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), Maryland has operated a vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance (I/M) program in various parts of the State since 1984. Maryland's VEIP was reauthorized in 1991 through legislation requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the Maryland Department of Environment to establish an expanded and enhanced I/M testing program in compliance with the 1990 Amendments to the CAA. As amended in 1990, the CAA requires all areas of the country to achieve specific air quality standards for ozone, and provides penalties for states failing to achieve the standards. Penalties include limits on new industries, loss of federal highway funds, and imposition of a federal implementation plan.

Approximately 1.2 million vehicles are required to submit to the VEIP test annually. Current test fees are $12 per vehicle, and the test is required every two years. Under current law, the MVA has the authority to increase the test fee to $14. The MVA advises that it currently grants over 45,000 waivers annually to the elderly. Current law also provides an exemption from the VEIP test for the disabled.

State Revenues: According to the MVA, approximately 45,000 vehicles currently meet the requirements for the elderly exemption from the VEIP test. The MVA advises that under this bill, approximately 6,000 additional vehicles will qualify for the elderly exemption. Assuming that the MVA continues to impose the current fee of $12 for the test, special fund revenues will decrease by approximately $72,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2001. Because the bill takes effect June 1, 2000, special fund revenues will decrease by approximately $6,000 in fiscal 2000. If the MVA increases the test fee to $14, which it is authorized to do, special fund revenues will decrease by approximately $84,000 annually. All fees from the VEIP test are paid into the Transportation Trust Fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Maryland Department of Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2000
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