

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 235 (Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Motor Homes

This bill provides that a motor home with a gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds is not subject to any emissions standards or to any tests or inspections under the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Decrease in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues beginning in FY 2001 as a result of increasing the number of vehicles that qualify for an exemption from the VEIP test and its associated fee. The decrease would be less than \$120,000, based on a \$12 fee.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A motor home is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed and constructed primarily to provide living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use. Motor homes are subject to VEIP.

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.

State Revenues: According to the MVA, approximately 10,000 motor homes are registered in the State. The MVA advises that it is not known how many of these vehicles weigh over 10,000 pounds. In addition, some motor homes are already waived from any emissions testing due to their size and others are submitted for a tailpipe emissions test. As a result, it is not known how many motor homes are actually tested each year. In any event, special fund revenue would decrease by \$12 (the current test fee) for each motor home that is no longer required to submit to emissions testing. The total decrease would be less than \$120,000 annually. If the MVA increases the test fee to \$14, which it is authorized to do, special fund revenue could decrease by \$14 for each motor home that is no longer required to submit to emissions testing. All fees from the VEIP test are paid into the TTF.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 287 of 1999 received an unfavorable report by the Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

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