

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 217 (Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Motor Homes

This bill provides that a motor home with a gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds that is not powered by a compression ignition (diesel) engine is not subject to transient mass-emission testing under the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice.

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 \$14 per vehicle, and the test is required every two years. The MVA advises that motor homes are generally not required to undertake transient emissions testing (the treadmill test), but rather are tested using the tailpipe test.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation was introduced during the 2000 session as SB 235. The bill passed the Senate and passed with amendments on second reading in the House. No further action was taken. SB 287 of 1999 received an unfavorable report by the Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: HB 747 (Delegate Stull, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

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

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