

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 619

(Delegates Ports and Redmer)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

**Motor Vehicles - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Record of Inspections
and Tests**

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to maintain with the vehicle records for each vehicle inspected under the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) the dates and results (pass/fail) of the emissions tests.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures in FY 2003 only due to computer programming costs. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MVA is required to keep a record of each application or other document filed with it and each certificate or other official document it issues. MVA is not currently required to maintain VEIP records with the vehicle records for each vehicle.

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 MVA and the Maryland Department of the 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.

Emissions testing in Maryland is operated as a centralized and privatized system. VEIP stations are State-owned with a contractor performing the tests and maintaining the facilities under State oversight. Currently, the contractor maintains VEIP records in its own computer system, which is not integrated with the computer system MVA uses to house vehicle records.

State Expenditures: MVA advises that in fiscal 2003 only, TTF expenditures would increase by an estimated \$25,000 to integrate the VEIP computer system with MVA's system. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce the programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. DLS further advises that the increased computer expenditure is simply an estimate and the MVA may be able to handle the changes with either less money than it estimates or with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2002
lc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2002

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