
By: **Senators Stone, Astle, DeGrange, Della, Haines, and Jimeno**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2005

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on a Decentralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to study requiring the Motor Vehicle
4 Administration and the Secretary of the Environment to establish a
5 decentralized vehicle emissions inspection program; providing for the
6 membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the appointment of the
7 Chair of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting
8 a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a
9 member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses;
10 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the
11 Governor and General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination
12 of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to study
13 establishment of a decentralized vehicle emissions inspection program.

14 **Preamble**

15 WHEREAS, The vehicle emissions inspection program is operated by the Motor
16 Vehicle Administration; and

17 WHEREAS, Improving vehicle emissions inspection technologies make it
18 possible for automotive repair facilities to conduct emissions inspections as accurate
19 as those conducted by the Motor Vehicle Administration; and

20 WHEREAS, Establishing a decentralized vehicle emissions inspection program
21 would not result in a loss of emissions reduction benefits to the State under the
22 federal Clean Air Act; and

23 WHEREAS, Establishing a decentralized vehicle emissions inspection program
24 would stimulate economic growth by encouraging automotive repair facilities to
25 expand their businesses; now, therefore,

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That:

1 (a) There is a Task Force to study requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration
2 and Secretary of the Environment to establish a decentralized vehicle emissions
3 inspection program.

4 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

5 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
6 of the Senate;

7 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
8 the House;

9 (3) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (4) The Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;
11 and

12 (5) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

13 (i) A representative of the Washington, Maryland, Delaware
14 Service Station and Automotive Repair Association, or a similar organization
15 representing service stations, automotive repair businesses, convenience stores, and
16 related businesses; and

17 (ii) A representative of an automotive consumer interest group.

18 (c) The Governor shall appoint the Chair of the Task Force from among the
19 members of the Task Force.

20 (d) The Task Force shall make specific recommendations and develop draft
21 legislation and regulations concerning establishment by the Motor Vehicle
22 Administration and the Secretary of the Environment of a decentralized vehicle
23 emissions inspection program.

24 (e) The Motor Vehicle Administration and the Department of the Environment
25 shall provide staffing for the Task Force.

26 (f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
27 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
28 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

29 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
30 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
31 General Assembly no later than December 31, 2005.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
34 December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
35 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.