

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1196 (Delegate Malone)
Environmental Matters

Task Force on a Decentralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

This bill establishes a task force to study requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the Secretary of the Environment to establish a decentralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). The task force is directed to make specific recommendations and develop draft legislation and regulations concerning establishment of a decentralized VEIP. Staffing for the task force will be provided by the MVA and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2005.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005 and sunsets December 31, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the MVA and MDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: In response to requirements of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), Maryland has operated a vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program

in various parts of the State since 1984. 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.

The MVA and MDE exercise joint authority over VEIP. 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. The VEIP testing network currently consists of 87 testing lanes at 19 centralized inspection stations located in 13 counties and Baltimore City.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 357 (Senator Stone, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2005
mam/ljm

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