

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 943 (Senator Shank)  
Judicial Proceedings

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Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Decentralization - Study

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This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a decentralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) using approved certified vehicle repair facilities. Findings and recommendations must be reported to the Governor and specified legislative committees by October 1, 2013. The study must consider whether establishing a decentralized program would result in a loss of emissions reduction benefits under the federal Clean Air Act.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by at least \$100,000 in FY 2014 for MVA to contract with a consultant with expertise in vehicle emissions and the decentralization of the emissions inspection process; although the bill takes effect in FY 2013, it is assumed that all contractual costs are incurred in FY 2014. The bill can otherwise be handled by MVA and MDE with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** In response to requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, Maryland has operated VEIP in various parts of the State since 1984. All model year 1977 and newer vehicles in the State, unless specifically exempt, must be inspected and tested every two years. MVA and MDE must set the VEIP fee for each vehicle to be inspected and tested, which may not exceed \$14. The current fee is \$14.

VEIP testing in Maryland is operated as a centralized system. VEIP stations are leased by the State with a contractor performing the tests and maintaining the facilities under State oversight. The VEIP testing network currently consists of 18 inspection stations located in 13 counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington) and Baltimore City.

**State Expenditures:** MVA and MDE advise that the study cannot be conducted with current resources and that an expert consultant would be needed. MVA and MDE estimate that the cost to contract with a consultant is at least \$100,000, which is based on the cost of similar studies previously conducted by consultants for MVA. This analysis assumes that the cost of the study is covered by TTF, as VEIP revenues are currently directed to TTF.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1392 (Delegates O'Donnell and Serafini) - Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 2013  
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