

HB 250-COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES – INSPECTIONS

Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo Sponsor Testimony

Maryland currently requires that class E & F vehicles receive an inspection every 25,000 miles or every 12 months, whichever occurs first. Class F vehicles are commonly known as tractor trailers and Class E vehicles are straight trucks. HB 250 would change the class F preventative maintenance inspection requirement for vehicles less than 5 years old to every 35,000 miles or every 12 months, whichever occurs first.

Long haul trucks can run upwards of 100-125,000 miles a year. Current inspection requirements would result in 4-5 inspections per year on average. Increasing the mileage requirement for inspections on tractor trailers (class F) to 35,000 miles would ease the financial cost to long haul trucking companies by reducing that average to 3-4 inspections per year without any reduction in safety. Maryland law is more stringent than federal law, which only requires an annual inspection regardless of miles. No other state has a mileage requirement, which could be viewed as a disincentive for motor carriers to register their vehicles in Maryland.

Because zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) require less maintenance than internal combustion engine vehicles, HB250 would increase the inspection mileage requirements for ZEV straight trucks only (class E) to every 50,000 miles, or every 12 months, whichever occurs first. ICE straight trucks would remain at 25,000 miles.

I ask you for a favorable report for HB250 to make Maryland's truck inspection laws less strenuous.