

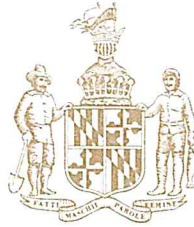
HB1079_FAV_Barve

Uploaded by: Delegate Barve Delegate Barve

Position: FAV

KUMAR P. BARVE

Chairman
Environment and
Transportation Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1079 VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTOIN PROGRAM – STANDARDS, REQUIREMENTS, AND APPLICATION

House Environment & Transportation Committee – March 3, 2022

HB 1079 will bring the Department of Transportation regulations on vehicle emissions inspections up to date particularly as they pertain to aging hybrid vehicles. More specifically, they will set up a biennial inspection schedule for a hybrid that is more than 7 model years old and having an on-board diagnostic II system.

In addition, this bill authorizes Motor Vehicle Administration to close certain of their test facilities if testing demand falls below a certain threshold and further permit decentralized test facilities equipped to serve the testing demands for these vehicle owners. The bill goes on to allow these decentralized facilities to charge a convenience fee in addition to the inspection fee to perform these tests.

While MVA is developing regulations to address this, this bill is necessary as the MVA does not have the clear statutory authority under current law to make these changes by regulation alone.

As the MVA proceeds with publishing their regulations, scheduling a public hearing on April, 25, 2022, this is after the end of the legislative session. Therefore, it is imperative that the questions surrounding the authority under law be resolved while we are in session.

I urge a favorable report.

Testimony for hb 1079 - vehicle emissions.pdf

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1079 –
Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program –
Standards, Requirements, and Application**

Sponsors: Chairman Barve and Delegate Stein

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports HB 1079**, which would require the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program to provide for a biennial exhaust emissions test only on vehicles that are equipped with an on-board diagnostic II system and are at least seven model years old.
- The bill also allows a vehicle owner to take the biennial exhaust emissions test at an approved certified repair facility.
- AAA supports reasonable, fair and effective means of preserving our environment, including those designed to reduce motor vehicle-caused air pollution.
- AAA recognizes the important responsibility of individuals to keep emission control systems intact and operating properly throughout the life of their vehicles by following routine maintenance steps outlined in owners' manuals.
- HB 1079 will give consumers greater convenience and flexibility when having their vehicle's exhaust emissions tested by allowing inspections at certified repair facilities.
- Passage of HB 1079 will ensure that Maryland's vehicle emission programs are both reasonable and cost effective, while providing convenience for consumers.
- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's more than one million Maryland members, we urge the Committee to give **HB 1079** a favorable report.

Contacts:

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HB 1079 LOI .docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: INFO



March 3, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1079 – Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Standards, Requirements, and Application

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed HB 1079 entitled, *Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program-Standards, Requirements, and Application*, and would like to provide information regarding this legislation.

The Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) is an effective program that was extremely critical in keeping vehicles built before modern computer controls running cleanly. The vast majority of vehicles in Maryland are now newer, cleaner vehicles equipped with advanced technology on-board diagnostic (OBD) emissions control systems. Additionally, Maryland's air quality has become drastically cleaner since VEIP's inception in the 1980s. Maryland is now meeting all federal air quality standards, except for the federal ozone standard, and is very close to achieving the ozone standard as well. Maryland meets the ozone level in most of the state, and exceedances of the ozone standard occur on a small number of days in isolated locations. These advancements in vehicle technology and our significant air quality progress are enabling a modernization of the VEIP in a way that will improve customer convenience and continue air quality progress.

In December 2021, MDE and the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration submitted a report required by Chp. 670 (HB 44) of 2021.¹ This report shared the agencies' perspective on modernization of the VEIP, including the implementation of an OBD-only testing program. OBD systems are present on model year 1996 and newer vehicles. Section 23-202(b)(1) of HB 1079 retains the requirement to perform VEIP testing of all subject vehicles of model year 1977 and newer, creating a conflict with the OBD-only testing amendments of section 23-202(b)(4)(i). The agencies' perspective is to limit the vehicles tested to those equipped with OBD systems, which aligns with the amendments to 23-202(b)(4)(i).

VEIP modernization also includes increasing the time before which a new vehicle is required to receive its VEIP test. In the past, this delay in initial testing was determined based on the model year of the vehicle. Over the years, the term "model year" has come to have different interpretations depending on the application. For clarity and consistency, expressing the initial delay in testing in terms of months of age, such as until the vehicle is at least 72 months of age, is better suited for this application.

¹ MSAR #13247 – VEIP Modernization Report: A Report to the Maryland General Assembly, Senate Finance Committee, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, House Environment and Transportation Committee, and House Appropriations Committee, December 2021.

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Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 1079 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tyler Abbott

cc: George "Tad" Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration