

2021 / 2022 Director

Ken Eaton

2022 / 2022 County Representatives

Caroline: Jeff Kinnamon

Dorchester: John Knox

Queen Anne's: Marianne Jackson

Talbot: Jimmy Mountzalia



*Dedicated to Freedom of the Road &
Responsible Motorcycle Legislation*

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Director, Mid-Shore Chapter

Date: February 22, 2022

Re: SB 670 Vehicle Laws - Registration Renewal - Inspection Requirement

Position: **DOES NOT SUPPORT**

I am a motorcyclist, a registered voter, and a member of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., the largest motorcyclist rights organization in the state of Maryland. ABATE represents the approximately 114,000 on road motorcycles that are registered in Maryland. We have chapters throughout the state and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We **DO NOT SUPPORT SB 670** as it requires an inspection certificate prior to renewal of a registration in Maryland.

Passing this bill in Maryland will require motorists to add one more fee to the registration renewal process in Maryland. Motorcycles currently spend \$104 for registration renewal every two years. The \$45 inspection certificate fee will be yet another fee that must be paid just to drive on Maryland roadways. We already pay a gasoline tax of 37 cents per gallon (Maryland) and 18 cents per gallon (Federal) as a roadway user fee, a \$17 per year EMS surcharge. Add to this the \$14 every two years that is being proposed under SB 104 for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection Fee. Many Maryland motorcyclists own additional vehicles, so the fee is compounded. For example, an average household that includes motorcycles may have 2 motorcycles, 2 passenger cars, one (light duty pickup) and one light trailer.

- Motorcycles (2): \$208 (\$104 each)
- Passenger Car (2): \$270 (\$135 each)
- Truck (1): \$161.50
- Trailer (1-small): \$51.00 (under 3,000 lbs.)

With the addition of the inspection certificate fee of \$45 per registered vehicle, this would add \$225 every two years to the average household (trailers seem to be exempt from the inspection bill SB 670). If SB 104 gets tacked on and they currently live in an exempt area, add another \$14 per vehicle or \$70 (does not include the trailer). So, these two bills combined could add \$295 or more to the average household in Maryland. Households that have more vehicles would be required to pay even more. For example, my personal household has 3 passenger cars, 2 motorcycles, 1 truck, one heavy duty van (historic) and two trailers. Our registration fees are already expensive. I pay \$927.50 currently. If SB 670 gets passed, it will be an additional \$270 and if SB 104 gets passed it will be an additional \$42 (I reside in Queen Anne's

County and already pay \$14 every two years for the cars and the truck). These two bills will cost my household an additional \$312 to renew registrations.

In a time when Marylanders are trying to overcome the past two years of Covid challenges, add to that a current slide of what looks like a depression, supply chain shortages, and lack of employees filling vacant job openings, it just does not seem to be the correct time to add expenses to the average household.

The Mid-Shore Chapter of ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **DOES NOT SUPPORT** SB670, Vehicle Laws – Registration Renewal – Inspection Requirement. We urge the committee to consider an UnFavorable vote.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth B. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'E'.

Kenneth B. Eaton, Director
Mid-Shore Chapter
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.