



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

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SUPPORT: SB104: Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Not Subject to Inspection Fee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV strongly supports SB104: Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Not Subject to Inspection, and we thank Senator Kramer for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV works at the intersection of strong climate policy and environmental justice. This bill supports both of those interests.

In order to confront the growing threat of climate change, Maryland must continue to take bold steps to address the pollution coming from the transportation sector, which is the single largest contributor to our carbon emissions. Moving our state vehicles away from fossil fuel-reliant technologies and moving to zero-emission electric vehicles (which can be charged with clean, renewable energy) is critical to this effort. The state rebate program, which is intended to help Maryland reach the target goal of 300,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2025, has been insufficiently funded to be able to meet demand, but we are still falling dramatically short of our goal. By one estimate, there are roughly 25,000 plug-in electric vehicles currently registered in Maryland.

The Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program has been a critical tool to reducing the emissions in our transportation sector since its implementation in 1984, however today a significant number of vehicles are exempted from this bi-annual testing, and the modest \$14 fee that is charged to conduct it. This bill requires that all vehicles currently exempted from the VEIP tests be charged the same bi-annual fee of \$14 to help support important programs that encourage electrification of vehicles.

Maryland LCV is especially invested in the inclusion of purchase of electric school buses as a designated use of the funds that this bill would support.

We encourage the sponsor to consider making clarifications to the bill which would ensure that the funds collected through this program be distributed equitably, using the principles of Justice 40 that require at least 40% of funds be directed to communities overburdened by pollution, as identified by environmental justice screening tools.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.