



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 183
Vehicle Laws – Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Repeal***

Position: Oppose

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: February 5, 2026

From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 183.

Bill Summary

House Bill 183 would eliminate Maryland's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). The legislation would repeal specific sections of the Maryland Transportation Code that currently mandates biennial exhaust testing and equipment checks for most motor vehicles. The bill would remove all legal framework for testing facilities, inspection fees, and the certification of repair technicians. Finally, this bill would end the requirements for vehicles needing to meet environmental air quality standards to maintain registration.

Position Rationale

MDE opposes HB 183 because it would violate Federal law and expose Marylanders to dangerous air pollution. VEIP is a mandatory requirement under the federal Clean Air Act for areas of Maryland that are, or have been, in non-attainment of the federal health-based air quality standard for ground-level ozone. Furthermore, VEIP is federally required due to Maryland's inclusion in the Ozone Transport Region. Ozone is a pervasive air pollutant that poses significant risk to both human health and the environment. VEIP is implemented in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's implementing regulations regarding test procedures and standards for motor vehicle inspection and maintenance programs.

The elimination of VEIP would necessitate that MDE secure equivalent air quality emission reductions from other industries and sectors—options which have previously been avoided due to their substantial cost and high impact on these entities. Should Maryland fail to achieve these mandated emission reductions, the State would risk the loss of federal highway funds, require emission offsets from industry, and the imposition of a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP).

Accordingly, MDE asks for an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 183.