



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

***HB 806
Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Modifications***

Position: Letter of Concern
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: February 26, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following letter of concern for **HB 806**.

Bill Summary

Effective on July 1, 2035, HB 806 would change the current Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) from a centralized, state-run, test-only program to a decentralized program utilizing independent authorized inspection facilities. This transition would require MDE and the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to jointly develop regulations, requirements, and processes for the new program. Additionally, HB 806 would remove the statutory cap on the VEIP test fee and replace it with a market-based fee structure.

Position Rationale

HB 806 would mandate the transition to a decentralized VEIP without a preceding, comprehensive analysis of the potential economic impacts on Maryland residents. Currently, a VEIP test fee is capped at \$30, biannually, for most vehicles. In contrast, decentralized programs in other states often feature higher annual inspection fees, typically ranging from \$30 to \$70.

A decentralized VEIP would have to be designed and implemented to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementing regulations for motor vehicle inspection and maintenance programs. To meet these federal requirements, decentralized programs often rely on a third-party contractor to provide VEIP-specific services, including developing and maintaining test software, the provision and servicing of test equipment (via purchase or lease agreements), test and secure data storage, and fraud detection. HB 806 does not address the ongoing roles and responsibilities of MDE and MVA, meaning both agencies would still be required to perform critical functions in the decentralized program. Specifically, MDE would retain responsibility for Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) activities. MDE estimates that establishing a functional testing network would require a combined 2,500 Certified Emission Inspection Facilities (CEIF) and Certified Repair Facilities (CRF) to manage the current annual testing volume of approximately 1.65 million initial and retests. To handle the significantly increased certification and expanded QA/QC activities necessitated by this large number of decentralized facilities, MDE anticipates a need for 5 additional staff positions.

MDE hopes this information is useful to the Committee and is available for questions related to **HB 806**.

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