



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2026

SB 106 – Vehicle Laws – Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Repeal

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;

SB 106 repeals the Maryland Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). VEIP, is outdated, costly, and no longer achieves the purpose for which it was created. Between emissions testing fees, additional MVA costs, and recent registration increases, Marylanders are facing growing financial barriers simply to keep a vehicle on the road.

Modern vehicles are already manufactured to meet strict federal air quality standards. Approximately 94 percent of vehicles pass emissions testing each year, demonstrating that the overwhelming majority of cars on Maryland roads are already compliant. At this point, continuing to require this program appears less about environmental protection and more about revenue generation.

In Fiscal Year 2026, the legislative appropriation for VEIP totaled \$20 million. While the MVA retains ownership of the facilities, contractors manage staffing, equipment, and daily operations. VEIP served an important role when it was first implemented, but automotive technology has advanced significantly since then, addressing many of the emissions concerns that originally justified the program.

This year, the emissions inspection fee more than doubled, from \$14 to \$30, further underscoring the financial burden placed on Maryland drivers. With a pass rate exceeding 90 percent, there is little evidence that VEIP remains an effective or necessary regulatory tool.

I respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.