

## HCS SS#2 SCS SB 583 -- VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM

This bill revises the state's vehicle emissions inspection program by creating a decentralized emissions inspection program in which only motor vehicle safety inspection stations and other entities certified by the Air Conservation Commission will conduct emissions inspections. The program will apply consistently throughout the City of St. Louis and the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, and Franklin.

Prior to September 1, 2007, the commission must develop a program which allows official emissions inspection stations to conduct onboard diagnostic testing on 1996 and newer vehicles. Before issuing a certificate of authorization to a prospective station, the commission must determine if the applicant will be properly equipped, has qualified emissions inspectors, and meets other requirements specified by the commission. Official inspection stations which are certified will be allowed to repair motor vehicles to bring them into compliance.

The Department of Natural Resources must issue a report to the General Assembly and the Governor regarding the progress of implementing the decentralized emissions inspection program. The report will include how many inspection stations or individuals the department expects to participate in the program and how many will be qualified by September 1, 2007, to conduct emissions inspections. The department will also be required to actively promote participation in the decentralized emissions inspection program among qualified motor vehicle dealers, service stations, and other individuals. After the implementation of the program, the department must monitor participation and attempt to ensure, through promotional efforts, that no more than 20% of all persons residing in the affected nonattainment area reside farther than five miles from the nearest inspection station.

The fee for an emissions inspection will not exceed \$24. Vehicle owners will not be charged an additional fee for a reinspection if completed within 20 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The commission must establish by rule a waiver amount not to exceed \$450. The waiver amount for an owner that performs repair work on his or her own vehicle will be \$400 if the cost of the parts used by the owner is equal to or greater than \$400. The cost for labor performed by the owner will not count toward the waiver limit. The commission may establish by rule a lower waiver amount for owners who provide reasonable and reliable proof that they are financially dependent solely on state and federal disability benefits and other public assistance programs. This proof must be submitted to the commission 30 calendar days prior to each subsequent emissions inspection before the lowered waiver amount is allowed. The Director of the Department of

Revenue may verify a successful inspection electronically.

The bill exempts from the inspection requirements diesel-powered vehicles except light-duty, diesel-powered vehicles manufactured after 1996 with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less; new motor vehicles not previously titled and registered for a four-year period following their model year of manufacture if the odometer reading is less than 40,000 miles at their first required biennial safety inspection; school buses; and motor vehicles driven fewer than 12,000 miles between biennial safety inspections. Vehicles which are inspected and approved prior to a sale or transfer will not be subject to another emissions inspection for 90 days after the date of sale or transfer.

The procedures for becoming an official emissions inspection station are specified. The commission may suspend a station's certificate of authority to conduct emissions inspections if the station is given due process as specified in the bill.

The Department of Natural Resources and the State Highway Patrol will provide oversight of the emissions inspection program. Beginning October 1, 2008, and every October 1 thereafter, the department and the patrol must jointly submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the oversight measures implemented for the program, data collected regarding compliance and incidents of fraud, and recommendations for improvements to the program.

The bill dissolves the Missouri Air Pollution Control Fund and transfers its moneys to the Missouri Air Emission Reduction Fund.

The bill becomes effective August 28, 2006, except for Sections 33.080, 301.190, 301.800, 307.366, 643.300, 643.305 - 643.335, and 643.350, RSMo, which have a September 1, 2007 effective date.