
SENATE BILL 6760

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Hochstatter and Winsley

Read first time 02/02/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle emission inspections; and amending
2 RCW 70.120.170 and 46.16.015.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.120.170 and 1991 c 199 s 208 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall administer a system for emission
7 inspections of all motor vehicles registered within the boundaries of
8 each emission contributing area. Under such system a motor vehicle
9 shall be inspected biennially except where an annual program would be
10 required to meet federal law and prevent federal sanctions. ((In
11 addition, motor vehicles shall be inspected at each change of
12 registered owner of a licensed vehicle.))

13 (2) The director shall:

14 (a) Adopt procedures for conducting emission inspections of motor
15 vehicles. The inspections may include idle and high revolution per
16 minute emission tests. The emission test for diesel vehicles shall
17 consist solely of a smoke opacity test.

18 (b) Adopt criteria for calibrating emission testing equipment.
19 Electronic equipment used to test for emissions standards provided for

1 in this chapter shall be properly calibrated. The department shall
2 examine frequently the calibration of the emission testing equipment
3 used at the stations.

4 (c) Authorize, through contracts, the establishment and operation
5 of inspection stations for conducting vehicle emission inspections
6 authorized in this chapter. No person contracted to inspect motor
7 vehicles may perform for compensation repairs on any vehicles. No
8 public body may establish or operate contracted inspection stations.
9 Any contracts must be let in accordance with the procedures established
10 for competitive bids in chapter 43.19 RCW.

11 (3) Subsection (2)(c) of this section does not apply to volunteer
12 motor vehicle inspections under RCW 70.120.020(1) if the inspections
13 are conducted for the following purposes:

14 (a) Auditing;

15 (b) Contractor evaluation;

16 (c) Collection of data for establishing calibration and performance
17 standards; or

18 (d) Public information and education.

19 (4)(a) The director shall establish by rule the fee to be charged
20 for emission inspections. The inspection fee shall be a standard fee
21 applicable state-wide or throughout an emission contributing area and
22 shall be no greater than eighteen dollars. Surplus moneys collected
23 from fees over the amount due the contractor shall be paid to the state
24 and deposited in the general fund. Fees shall be set at the minimum
25 whole dollar amount required to (i) compensate the contractor or
26 inspection facility owner, and (ii) offset the general fund
27 appropriation to the department to cover the administrative costs of
28 the motor vehicle emission inspection program.

29 (b) Before each inspection, a person whose motor vehicle is to be
30 inspected shall pay to the inspection station the fee established under
31 this section. The person whose motor vehicle is inspected shall
32 receive the results of the inspection. If the inspected vehicle
33 complies with the standards established by the director, the person
34 shall receive a dated certificate of compliance. If the inspected
35 vehicle does not comply with those standards, one reinspection of the
36 vehicle shall be afforded without charge.

37 (5) All units of local government and agencies of the state with
38 motor vehicles garaged or regularly operated in an emissions
39 contributing area shall test the emissions of those vehicles annually

1 to ensure that the vehicle's emissions comply with the emission
2 standards established by the director. All state agencies outside of
3 emission contributing areas with more than twenty motor vehicles housed
4 at a single facility or contiguous facilities shall test the emissions
5 of those vehicles annually to ensure that the vehicles' emissions
6 comply with standards established by the director. A report of the
7 results of the tests shall be submitted to the department.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.015 and 1991 c 199 s 209 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Neither the department of licensing nor its agents may issue or
11 renew a motor vehicle license for any (~~vehicle or change the~~
12 ~~registered owner of a licensed vehicle, for any~~) vehicle that is
13 required to be inspected under chapter 70.120 RCW, unless the
14 application for issuance or renewal is: (a) Accompanied by a valid
15 certificate of compliance or a valid certificate of acceptance issued
16 pursuant to chapter 70.120 RCW; or (b) exempted from this requirement
17 pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The certificates must have
18 a date of validation which is within six months of the date of
19 application for the vehicle license or license renewal. Certificates
20 for fleet or owner tested diesel vehicles may have a date of validation
21 which is within twelve months of the assigned license renewal date.

22 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to the following
23 vehicles:

24 (a) New motor vehicles whose equitable or legal title has never
25 been transferred to a person who in good faith purchases the vehicle
26 for purposes other than resale;

27 (b) Motor vehicles with a model year of 1967 or earlier;

28 (c) Motor vehicles that use propulsion units powered exclusively by
29 electricity;

30 (d) Motor vehicles fueled by propane, compressed natural gas, or
31 liquid petroleum gas, unless it is determined that federal sanctions
32 will be imposed as a result of this exemption;

33 (e) Motorcycles as defined in RCW 46.04.330 and motor-driven cycles
34 as defined in RCW 46.04.332;

35 (f) Farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.181;

36 (g) Used vehicles which are offered for sale by a motor vehicle
37 dealer licensed under chapter 46.70 RCW; or

1 (h) Motor vehicles exempted by the director of the department of
2 ecology.

3 The provisions of subparagraph (a) of this subsection may not be
4 construed as exempting from the provisions of subsection (1) of this
5 section applications for the renewal of licenses for motor vehicles
6 that are or have been leased.

7 (3) The department of ecology shall provide information to motor
8 vehicle owners regarding the boundaries of emission contributing areas
9 and restrictions established under this section that apply to vehicles
10 registered in such areas. In addition the department of ecology shall
11 provide information to motor vehicle owners on the relationship between
12 motor vehicles and air pollution and steps motor vehicle owners should
13 take to reduce motor vehicle related air pollution. The department of
14 licensing shall send to all registered motor vehicle owners affected by
15 the emission testing program notice that they must have an emission
16 test to renew their registration.

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