



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Alter
22nd Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 429
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:
December 9, 2005**

**Contact: Mary Lois Gerdes
(573) 751-1492**

Sen. Bill Alter Co-Sponsors Bill Protecting Consumers from Excessive Emissions Regulations

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, is co-sponsoring a bill for the 2006 legislative session to make emissions regulations in the St. Louis metropolitan area more convenient for drivers.

“The current process of getting a vehicle tested wastes valuable time, money and patience,” Alter said. “This legislation will make emissions testing less of a hassle for consumers.”

Senate Bill 583, co-sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, decentralizes the current emissions-testing program to make the process easier and more convenient for consumers. In place of the handful of specialized emissions testing stations throughout the metro area, safety inspectors and other motor vehicle repair workers will be able to perform emissions tests once they pass an emissions system repair certification program. Certification guidelines are to be developed by the Air Conservation Commission.

The legislation will also loosen restrictions on Missouri motorists. Vehicles manufactured before 1996 will be exempt from emissions inspections and will only be required to undergo a gas-cap pressure test, which will be included in their safety inspection. New vehicles will not be required to undergo an emissions test for four years after being purchased. Also, individuals who qualify as low-mileage drivers, those who drive fewer than 6,000 miles per year, will not be required to undergo emissions testing.

The legislation also has a provision expanding monetary credits for emissions-related work performed by the vehicle owner.

“The Department of Natural Resources has participated in the crafting of this bill so we ensure that environmental protection is not compromised,” Alter said. “There’s no reason why emissions testing can’t be friendly to consumers and the environment, so I expect this measure to garner bipartisan support.”