



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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PRESS RELEASE

Emissions Bill Moves to Governor

JEFFERSON CITY—The General Assembly granted final passage this week to legislation co-sponsored by Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, making emissions testing more convenient for vehicle owners in Jefferson County.

When the Senate had initially approved Senate Bill 583 in late February, an amendment had been tacked on to the measure had eliminated the statewide safety inspection for vehicles. This hurt the bill's original intentions because some of the exemptions in the bill hinged on the results of the safety inspection.

“Fortunately, the House’s version reverts to the initial aim of the bill and reinstates the safety inspection,” Alter said. “With this new law, we will be able to get rid of the many inconveniences that consumers face due to out-of-date testing procedures, a limited number of testing sites and unnecessary inspections for cars that are not threats to the environment.”

SB 583 will affect the owners of more than 1 million registered vehicles who must get their autos’ emissions tested every other year in order to renew their licenses in the greater St. Louis area. Among its many provisions, the measure decentralizes the emissions-inspection program so that consumers have more options of where to get their vehicles tested. The measure also modernizes the testing method and defines the procedures that stations must follow to become certified emissions inspectors. Under the legislation, the inspection fee is capped at \$24.

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To cut down on the number of unnecessary inspections, the legislation includes the following exemptions:

- New cars for four years after their model year, provided that at the two-year safety inspection, the vehicle has fewer than 40,000 miles on the odometer.
- Motor vehicles that are driven fewer than 12,000 miles between biennial safety inspections.
- Vehicles manufactured before 1996, but they still must undergo a gas-cap pressure test, which would be included in the vehicle safety inspection.

The governor is expected to soon sign the measure, which will become effective Sept. 1, 2007.

“I’m glad my fellow lawmakers understood that the inspection process could be improved so that it is friendly for the environment *and* for consumers,” Alter said.

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