



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Governor Signs Bill Improving Emissions Testing

JEFFERSON CITY—The governor recently signed legislation cosponsored by Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, making auto-emissions testing more consumer-friendly. Due to a federal mandate, Missouri cannot get rid of the emissions tests, which began in 2000. Alter cosponsored Senate Bill 583 this past session so vehicle owners in the St. Louis area can more easily get their license plates renewed.

“Although emissions inspections are good for the environment, they are also a major inconvenience because testing methods are out-of-date, repairs are costly and there are too few places to get a vehicle tested,” Alter said. “We found a way to change the program so that it still benefits the environment but is not a major hassle for consumers.”

Among its many provisions, SB 583 decentralizes the emissions-inspection program so that consumers will have more places to go for testing. The measure also modernizes the testing method and defines the procedures that stations must follow to become certified emissions inspectors. Cars and light-duty pickup trucks and vans with diesel-powered engines will now be subject to inspections, and the fee is capped at \$24.

To cut down on the number of unnecessary inspections, the bill exempts the following:

- New vehicles for four years after their model year, provided that at the biannual safety inspection, the vehicle has fewer than 40,000 miles on the odometer.
- Motor vehicles 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 new law becomes effective Sept. 1, 2007.

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