



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Senate Approves Sen. John Griesheimer's Bill Easing Excessive Emissions Regulations

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JEFFERSON CITY— Legislation sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, making auto-emissions testing more consumer-friendly has advanced to the House this week. Senate Bill 583 addresses many of the problems in the current emissions-testing process, which the 1.2 million vehicles registered in the greater St. Louis area must go through every other year in order to renew their licenses.

“Missouri’s emissions regulations are a nightmare for consumers because the testing procedures are out-of-date and the limited number of places that offer testing are a hassle to work with,” Griesheimer said. “With this bill, the emissions-testing process will be easier and more convenient for consumers.”

Among its many provisions, SB 583 gives consumers more options about where to get their vehicles tested, and it also modernizes the testing method.

Griesheimer is glad that his Senate colleagues understood the benefits of this legislation, but he is worried about a potentially troublesome amendment that was attached to the bill during Senate debate. The amendment eliminates the motor vehicle safety inspection program in January 2007.

“I am concerned about this amendment because my constituents have told me time and again that they feel more comfortable knowing the cars they share the road with do not pose a public safety risk,” Griesheimer said. “Also, some of the emissions-testing exemptions I included in SB 583 are conditional upon having the safety inspection program in place.”

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The exemption provisions relying on the results of the biennial safety inspection are:

- New cars for four years after their model year, provided that at the two-year safety inspection, the vehicle has fewer than 50,000 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 their safety inspection.

“When I drafted this bill, those exemptions were incorporated so the process wasn’t unnecessarily cumbersome for individuals whose vehicles were not threats to the environment,” Griesheimer said. “Although I do not approve of completely getting rid of the statewide safety inspections, I’m not going to let that matter stand in the way of revamping the emissions-testing program for my constituents.”

The bill will soon go through similar consideration in the House.

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