



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Griesheimer

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Griesheimer's Emissions Bill Moves to Governor

JEFFERSON CITY— Having received final approval from the General Assembly, legislation sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, making auto-emissions testing more consumer-friendly will soon be signed into law by the governor.

The House made minor adjustments to the proposed emission-inspection improvements, and also moved to restore Griesheimer's original intentions for Senate Bill 583 by retaining vehicle safety inspections. The Senate approved the changes yesterday.

"Anyone who has had to get their vehicle's emissions tested knows the nightmare the process can be, so I am grateful to my fellow lawmakers for having recognized the need to make emissions inspections less cumbersome for my constituents," Griesheimer said. "Because some of the improvements to the emissions-testing program hinge on the existence of the safety inspection program, I appreciate that my colleagues revived the heart of my initial bill."

SB 583 affects the owners of more than one 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. The measure alleviates many hassles that consumers face due to such hindrances as out-of-date testing procedures and a limited number of testing sites.

Among its many provisions, SB 583 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.

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Cars and light-duty pickup trucks and vans with diesel-powered engines will now be subjected to the inspection. Under the legislation, the inspection fee is capped at \$24.

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.
- Heavy-duty trucks with gross vehicle weight ratings of more than 8,500 pounds.

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

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