



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation

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DATE: April 17, 2013

TO: House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: HB 3443 with -2 amendment

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 3443 with the -2 amendment requires the Environmental Quality Commission (DEQ) to prepare revisions to the Oregon State Implementation Plan under the Federal Clean Air Act, for submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The revised plan will make recommendations for inspection of motor vehicles that are more than six years old. If EPA approves the revisions, DEQ will report any recommendations for Oregon legislation. Changes to the frequency or requirements for vehicle emissions testing likely would impact the Department of Transportation, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV), which works together with DEQ for efficiency.

DISCUSSION

Currently, vehicles registered within a DEQ boundary provide proof of a passing vehicle emissions test at the time of DMV registration renewal (and when a vehicle coming from another state is registered for the first time in Oregon). Brand new vehicles are initially registered for four years and are exempt from emissions testing for four years. Proof of passing the emissions test is required at registration renewal, which after that initial four years is required every two years.

Current law synchronizes the emissions testing requirements with the DMV registration cycle making it efficient for the customer while achieving Federal Clean Air Act compliance. The registration renewal notice sent to the vehicle owner advises that the DEQ test is required. DEQ's system is linked to DMV's system so a DEQ customer can renew their registration right at the testing facility. DEQ processes more than one-quarter of DMV's registration renewals thereby gaining efficiencies for both the customer and DMV.

Changes to the testing requirements will impact DMV. For example, extending the initial exemption for brand new vehicles would impact DMV by requiring more people to conduct their initial renewal with DMV rather than DEQ. Basing the emissions testing timing on something other than the registration year (e.g. model year), would require changes to DMV's processes and computer programming. Therefore, as the legislature considers changes to DEQ emissions testing frequency, it will be important to consider the efficiencies gained by DEQ's and DMV's work being coordinated. Those efficiencies help both our customers and our agencies.

SUMMARY

While the bill with the -2 amendment does not impact DMV directly or immediately, the legislature may wish to consider impacts to customers of both DMV and DEQ.