



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation

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DATE: May 20, 2013
TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison
SUBJECT: HB 3443-A

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 3443-A requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to prepare revisions to Oregon's 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 make recommendations for legislation. Changes to the frequency or requirements for emissions testing 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 registered initially for four years and are exempt from emissions testing during that time. 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 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.

HB 3443-A would change the first DEQ inspection of a new vehicle from four years to eight years. Changes to the testing requirements will impact DMV. Extending the emissions testing exemption for brand new vehicles would require more people to conduct their first and second registration renewal (at four years and six years) with DMV rather than DEQ. DMV therefore will see many more customers in the field office or via mail or on-line transaction. Also, the current system is based on the year of first registration—not manufacture year or model year. Basing the emissions testing timing on something other than the registration year would require significant 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 the agencies. As DEQ develops the plan required in the bill, DMV will stay involved to assist in coordinating the two agencies' synchronized customer-service delivery.

SUMMARY

HB 3443-A impacts DMV by shifting two cycles of registration renewals back to DMV. Specifics of the plan to be developed by DEQ will clarify the extent of system changes that would need to be made, and DMV would stay involved in that process to ensure coordination of the agencies' efforts.