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Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair
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Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB46 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program-Not Subject to Inspection-Fee

Testimony by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

January 20, 2022- The Environment and Transportation Committee

Every two years, almost all of you bring your vehicle to get tested at a Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) station. VEIP testing, run jointly by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, was originally adopted in Maryland in 1984 to reduce vehicle emissions that negatively impact our State's air quality.¹

Greenhouse gas emissions have lasting, and often deadly, consequences on our population's health. According to the Maryland Department of Health, in 2018 there were 29,534 asthma-related emergency department visits in Maryland (52.4 per 10,000 residents); among children under five years old, the ER visit rate was 119.4 per 10,000 residents.² This cost the State \$27.7 billion in healthcare costs.³ In 2019, the Maryland Department of Health also reported that chronic lower respiratory diseases, which includes asthma, were the fifth leading cause of death in the State, with a mortality rate of 29.2 per 100,000 residents.⁴ A study from 2019 of 869 counties in the U.S. found that there is a strong correlation between ozone and fine particulate pollution and respiratory ER visits among all age groups.⁵

¹ [VEIP About Our Program \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov/veip/about-our-program)

² [Pages - Asthma \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov/pages-asthma)

³ [Pages - Asthma \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov/pages-asthma)

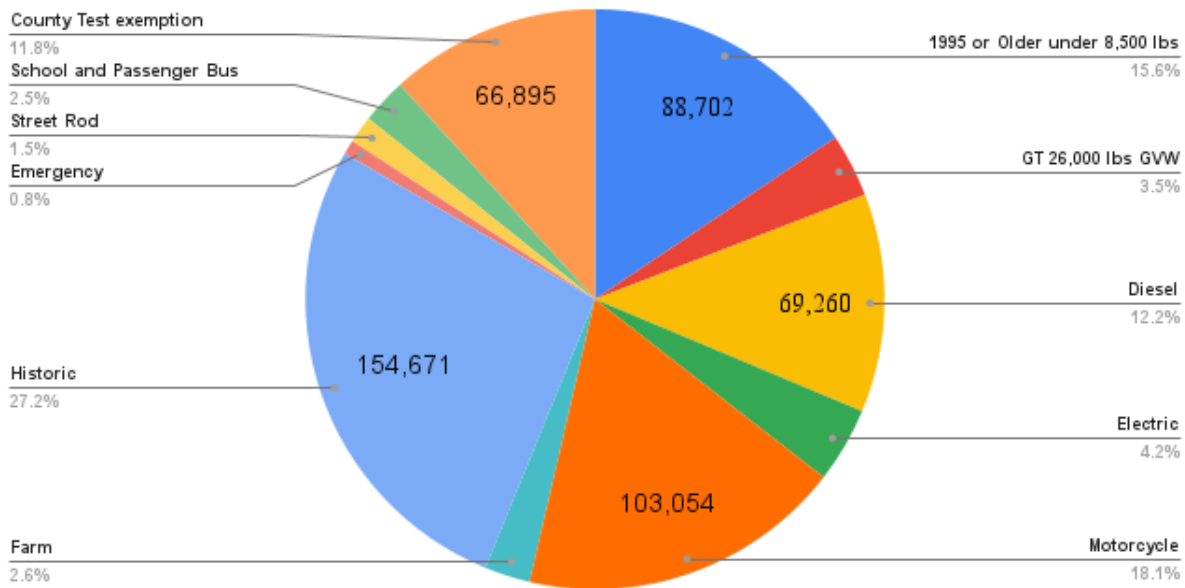
⁴ [2019Annual.pdf \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov/2019annual.pdf)

⁵ [Age-Specific Associations of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter with Respiratory Emergency Department Visits in the United States | American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine \(atsjournals.org\)](http://atsjournals.org)

There are almost 570,000 vehicles registered in the State that are exempt from VEIP testing.⁶ This means that thousands of vehicles are contributing to greater greenhouse gas emissions without having to undergo testing at all.

Vehicles in Maryland Exempt from VEIP Testing

TOTAL (As of November 1, 2021): 568,680



HB46 aims to address this by charging exempt vehicles the same fee that it costs at a VEIP station— \$14— every two years to be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to go towards electric vehicle incentives in the State.

I encourage a favorable vote on HB46 to ensure that all vehicles are held to the same standard when it comes to being accountable for greenhouse gas emissions. It is only fair that everyone has to pay the same fee for the sake of clean and breathable air.

⁶ Data provided by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration as of November 1, 2021