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H.649

Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Surprenant of Barnard,
Colburn of Burlington, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pearl
of Danville, Small of Winooski, and Vyhovsky of Essex

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; inspections; study committee

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make the
annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections biennial and form a
study committee to investigate the effect motor vehicle inspections have on
Vermonters with low income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the State,
and Vermonters who are elders.

An act relating to motor vehicle inspections

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1222(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except for school buses, which shall be inspected as prescribed in
section 1282 of this title, and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of
this title, which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month
intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall undergo a biennial
safety and visual emissions inspection ~~once each year~~ and all motor vehicles

1 that are registered in this State and are 16 model years old or less shall undergo
2 ~~an~~ a biennial emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection ~~once~~
3 ~~each year~~ as applicable. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not
4 currently inspected in this State shall be inspected within 15 days following the
5 date of its registration in the State of Vermont.

6 Sec. 2. STUDY COMMITTEE ON EFFECT OF INSPECTIONS

7 (a) Creation. There is created the Motor Vehicle Inspections Study
8 Committee to investigate the effect motor vehicle inspections have on
9 Vermonters with low income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the State,
10 and Vermonters who are elders.

11 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
12 members:

13 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
14 the Speaker of the House;

15 (2) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on
16 Committees;

17 (3) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee;

18 (4) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

19 (5) the Commissioner of Aging, Disabilities, and Independent Living or
20 designee;

21 (6) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee;

1 (7) the Agency of Transportation’s Public Transit Program Manager or
2 designee;

3 (8) one member who shall be an employee of a Vermont community
4 action agency, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

5 (9) one member who shall be a member of the Vermont Vehicle and
6 Automotive Distributors Association, appointed by the Committee on
7 Committees;

8 (10) one member who shall be an inspection mechanic certified by the
9 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1227, appointed by
10 the Speaker of the House; and

11 (11) one member who shall be affiliated with the Vermont Council on
12 Rural Development, appointed by the Committee on Committees.

13 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the effect of motor
14 vehicle inspections, both safety and emissions, on Vermonters with low
15 income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the State, and Vermonters who
16 are elders, including the following issues:

17 (1) the federal consequences of switching to biennial inspections, or
18 eliminating inspections;

19 (2) whether mandatory safety inspections in Vermont are keeping unsafe
20 cars off the road;

1 (3) the average cost of repairs necessitated by a failed inspection, split
2 up by safety and the different types of emissions inspections; and

3 (4) recommendations on assistance programs that can be developed to
4 minimize to costs of a failed inspection on Vermonters.

5 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
6 and legal assistance of the Agency of Transportation.

7 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Committee shall submit a
8 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the
9 House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health
10 and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

11 (f) Meetings.

12 (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee shall call the first
13 meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 1, 2022.

14 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
15 first meeting.

16 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

17 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 15, 2023.

18 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

19 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
20 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in that capacity shall
21 be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant

1 to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be
2 made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

3 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
4 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
5 § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from
6 monies appropriated to the Agency of Transportation.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 (a) This section and Sec. 2 (study committee) shall take effect on passage.

9 (b) Sec. 1 (biennial inspection; 23 V.S.A. § 1222(a)) shall take effect on
10 July 1, 2022.