

1 S.103

2 Introduced by Senators Douglass, Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan,
3 Chittenden, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Hart,
4 Heffernan, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett and
5 Williams

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Motor vehicles; equipment; inspection; inspection manual

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
10 Department of Motor Vehicles to update the Periodic Inspection Manual to
11 clarify that rust, corrosion, or torn metal on a vehicle body, frame, component,
12 or part that is cosmetic in nature and does not materially diminish the structural
13 integrity of the vehicle or pose a danger shall not be grounds for a vehicle to
14 fail its annual inspection.

15 An act relating to updating the Periodic Inspection Manual

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

17 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; VEHICLE RUST

18 It is the intent of the General Assembly that rust, corrosion, or torn metal on
19 a motor vehicle body, frame, component, or part that is cosmetic in nature and
20 does not materially diminish the structural integrity of the vehicle or pose a

1 material danger to the individual operating the motor vehicle, any passengers
2 in the motor vehicle, or other highway users shall not cause the vehicle to fail
3 the annual safety inspection required pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1222.

4 Sec. 2. RULEMAKING; PERIODIC INSPECTION MANUAL; VEHICLE
5 RUST; OUTREACH

6 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, unless extended by the
7 Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, adopt amendments to
8 Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-
9 022) consistent with the legislative intent in Sec. 1 of this act to be effective on
10 or before January 1, 2026. The amendments shall:

11 (1) specifically address the difference between:

12 (A) rust, corrosion, or torn metal on a motor vehicle body, frame,
13 component, or part that materially diminishes the structural integrity of the
14 vehicle or poses a material danger to the individual operating the motor
15 vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, or other highway users; and

16 (B) rust, corrosion, or torn metal on a motor vehicle body, frame,
17 component, or part that is cosmetic in nature and does not materially diminish
18 the structural integrity of the vehicle or pose a material danger to the individual
19 operating the motor vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, or other
20 highway users; and

1 (2) provide clear graphical examples of how to determine if rust,
2 corrosion, or torn metal on a motor vehicle body, frame, component, or part is
3 significant enough to materially diminish the structural integrity of the vehicle
4 or pose a material danger to the individual operating the motor vehicle, any
5 passengers in the motor vehicle, or other highway users.

6 (b) On or before January 1, 2026, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall
7 issue an administrative bulletin to all inspection mechanics certified by the
8 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that:

9 (1) details the amendments to the Periodic Inspection Manual adopted
10 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section;

11 (2) explains the difference between:

12 (A) rust, corrosion, or torn metal on a motor vehicle body, frame,
13 component, or part that materially diminishes the structural integrity of the
14 vehicle or poses a material danger to the individual operating the motor
15 vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, or other highway users; and

16 (B) rust, corrosion, or torn metal on a motor vehicle body, frame,
17 component, or part that is cosmetic in nature and does not materially diminish
18 the structural integrity of the vehicle or pose a material danger to the individual
19 operating the motor vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, or other
20 highway users; and

1 (3) provides information that an inspection mechanic shall provide to
2 the owner of a vehicle that fails inspection because of rust, corrosion, or torn
3 metal on the vehicle body, frame, component, or part.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.