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Memo To: Senate Committee on Transportation
From: Andrew Collier, Commissioner Department of Motor Vehicles
Date: 2/11/2026
Subject: Proposed changes to the Periodic Inspection Manual

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is committed to enhancing the vehicle inspection process by implementing critical updates to the inspection manual. This initiative aims to expedite changes that focus on genuine safety risks, eliminate outdated procedures, and provide clear, consistent guidance for both inspectors and the public. Our goal is to simplify the inspection process, reducing confusion and unnecessary burdens on Vermonters.

Focus areas for proposed changes:

- Tires –
 - Deep cuts or wear spots must expose cords through the tread to warrant failure.
- Power Steering and Suspension –
 - Move broken power-steering belt and vehicle continues rocking motion after release, indicating loss of shock absorber function to advisory.
- Brakes –
 - Remove surface rust from failure reasons.
 - Eliminate on-highway road test.
- Lighting and Electrical –
 - Move non-functioning license plate, backup, front and rear clearance lamps to advisory.
 - Eliminate headlamp aiming test.
 - Move non-functioning airbag warning light, speedometer illumination, and front defroster light to advisory.
- Vehicle Glass –
 - Move star breaks or bullseyes larger than 1.5 inches within critical area to advisory.
 - Move manual or power-operated windows not operating to advisory.
- Body Rust –
 - Clarify rust guidance to define failure as corrosion or torn metal that compromises structural integrity.
 - Add image defining A, B, and C pillars and define when rust on them constitutes failure.

Goals and Benefits:

- **Safety Enhancement:** Prioritize inspections that address true safety risks, ensuring the well-being of all road users.
- **Clarity and Consistency:** Provide clear, consistent guidelines to reduce confusion and enhance understanding for both inspectors and vehicle owners.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Streamline inspection processes to reduce time and burden, making the experience more efficient for all parties involved.

By implementing these strategic changes, DMV is dedicated to creating a more efficient, effective, and safety-focused vehicle inspection process. This initiative reflects our commitment to serving the public interest and enhancing road safety across the state.