

HCS HB 697 -- MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS

SPONSOR: St. Onge (Lembke)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 12 to 4.

Under this substitute, emissions testing on certain motor vehicles will not be required prior to a sale or transfer if the testing and approval occurred within 90 days immediately preceding the sale or transfer.

The substitute exempts from emissions testing motor vehicles within four years of the specific model year and motor vehicles owned by persons 65 years of age or older with not more than 5,000 miles per year on the odometer of the vehicle since its last emissions testing.

Vehicles which fail emissions standards testing may be repaired by a mechanic of the owner's choice. The waiver amount by the Clean Air Commission will include the labor cost associated with the repairs. The waiver amount is adjusted from \$450 to \$300 for vehicles of 1997 and subsequent model years.

The Department of Natural Resources is required to consult and negotiate with the federal Environment Protection Agency regarding any rule change which may adversely impact the state's compliance with the federal Clean Air Act. The Joint Interim Committee on Emissions is established for the 2005 legislative interim. Any proposed rules to be promulgated or modified will be sent to the committee by September 1, 2005. The committee will provide its recommendations on any proposed rule by November 1, 2005.

Several provisions of the substitute become effective January 1, 2006.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$192,780 in FY 2006, \$385,560 in FY 2007, and \$385,560 in FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current testing program is a burden and is not doing enough to improve air quality. Advances in automotive technology have lessened the need for testing because later model vehicle emissions are cleaner. Seventy-five percent of the vehicles operating today are model year 1996 or newer which have the newer technology.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lembke; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Transportation; St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association; and City of St. Louis.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they are strongly opposed to lowering the bar of the automotive repair industry in regards to the emissions repair by unqualified mechanics.

Testifying against the bill were Alliance of Automotive Service Providers of Missouri; Sun Auto Enterprises, Incorporated; Sun Service Center, Incorporated; Advanced Auto Service; Alliance of Automotive Services Providers; Autotech 2000, Incorporated; and B & G Enterprises, Incorporated.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that if Missouri does away with the current emissions requirement at this time, it will create a breach of contract with the current emissions testing providers.

Others testifying on the bill was ESP Missouri.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst