

HCS HBs 1838, 1692, 1695, 1983, 2036, 2662 & 2743 -- MOTOR
VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

SPONSOR: Kelley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 11 to 5 with 1 member voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1838, 1692, 1695, 1983, 2036, 2662 & 2743.

Currently, most motor vehicles must receive a safety inspection every two years, within 60 days of vehicle registration. Used vehicles must be inspected immediately before they are sold.

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill removes the safety inspection registration requirement for noncommercial motor vehicles and commercial motor vehicles used for farm purposes that travel less than 100 miles per year, except that prior salvage vehicles immediately following a rebuilding process must still be inspected.

The bill removes the safety inspection requirement on used cars immediately prior to sale.

Currently, when an application is made for an original Missouri certificate of ownership for a vehicle previously registered or titled in another state or when necessary for vehicle registration as specified in Section 301.020, RSMo, a vehicle must be inspected to certify its manufacturer's identification number is correctly displayed and to certify the odometer reading at the time of inspection.

The bill authorizes employees of licensed new or used motor vehicle dealers to perform such inspections and collect the same fee as other authorized inspection stations.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROponents: Supporters say that other states have removed this restriction, and studies show that increased inspections don't significantly correlate with reduced fatality rates. Removing these inspections promotes personal responsibility and consumer

choice. New vehicles indicate when maintenance is necessary, and these inspections were mandated at a time when vehicle fatalities were much higher. Law enforcement is able to enforce safe operating conditions, and requirements can be circumvented. Stations around the State are choosing not to perform these inspections because the maximum fee is too low for them to turn a profit, and because of this, it is increasingly difficult for citizens to inspect and register their vehicles. Inspections can also lead to expensive, unnecessary repairs, which hurts working-class individuals, particularly because inspection stations have an incentive to find dubiously necessary repairs. Self-preservation already motivates people to keep their vehicles in safe working order.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kelley; ABATE for Missouri; Missouri Farm Bureau; Nimrod Chapel Jr., and Missouri NAACP State Conference.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that on there is a comprehensive, independent study on the Missouri State Highway Patrol website showing that motor vehicle inspections reduce the number of fatality accidents.

Testifying in person on the bill was Lt. Alex Vivas, Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.