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SENATE BILL 5240

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Swecker and Fraser; by request of Department of Ecology

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle emission inspection fee  
2 adjustments; and amending RCW 70.120.170.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.120.170 and 1998 c 342 s 4 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department shall administer a system for emission  
7 inspections of all motor vehicles, except those described in RCW  
8 46.16.015(2), that are registered within the boundaries of each  
9 emission contributing area. Under such system a motor vehicle shall be  
10 inspected biennially except where an annual program would be required  
11 to meet federal law and prevent federal sanctions. In addition, motor  
12 vehicles shall be inspected at each change of registered owner of a  
13 licensed vehicle as provided under RCW 46.16.015.

14 (2) The director shall:

15 (a) Adopt procedures for conducting emission inspections of motor  
16 vehicles. The inspections may include idle and high revolution per  
17 minute emission tests. The emission test for diesel vehicles shall  
18 consist solely of a smoke opacity test.

1 (b) Adopt criteria for calibrating emission testing equipment.  
2 Electronic equipment used to test for emissions standards provided for  
3 in this chapter shall be properly calibrated. The department shall  
4 examine frequently the calibration of the emission testing equipment  
5 used at the stations.

6 (c) Authorize, through contracts, the establishment and operation  
7 of inspection stations for conducting vehicle emission inspections  
8 authorized in this chapter. No person contracted to inspect motor  
9 vehicles may perform for compensation repairs on any vehicles. No  
10 public body may establish or operate contracted inspection stations.  
11 Any contracts must be let in accordance with the procedures established  
12 for competitive bids in chapter 43.19 RCW.

13 (3) Subsection (2)(c) of this section does not apply to volunteer  
14 motor vehicle inspections under RCW 70.120.020(1) if the inspections  
15 are conducted for the following purposes:

16 (a) Auditing;

17 (b) Contractor evaluation;

18 (c) Collection of data for establishing calibration and performance  
19 standards; or

20 (d) Public information and education.

21 (4)(a) The director shall establish by rule the fee to be charged  
22 for emission inspections. (~~The inspection fee shall be a standard fee  
23 applicable state wide or throughout an emission contributing area and  
24 shall be no greater than fifteen dollars.~~) Surplus moneys collected  
25 from fees over the amount due the contractor shall be paid to the state  
26 and deposited in the general fund. Fees shall be set at the minimum  
27 whole dollar amount required to (i) compensate the contractor or  
28 inspection facility owner, and (ii) offset the general fund  
29 appropriation to the department to cover the administrative costs of  
30 the motor vehicle emission inspection program.

31 (b) Before each inspection, a person whose motor vehicle is to be  
32 inspected shall pay to the inspection station the fee established under  
33 this section. The person whose motor vehicle is inspected shall  
34 receive the results of the inspection. If the inspected vehicle  
35 complies with the standards established by the director, the person  
36 shall receive a dated certificate of compliance. If the inspected  
37 vehicle does not comply with those standards, one reinspection of the  
38 vehicle shall be afforded without charge.

1       (5) All units of local government and agencies of the state with  
2 motor vehicles garaged or regularly operated in an emissions  
3 contributing area shall test the emissions of those vehicles annually  
4 to ensure that the vehicle's emissions comply with the emission  
5 standards established by the director. All state agencies outside of  
6 emission contributing areas with more than twenty motor vehicles housed  
7 at a single facility or contiguous facilities shall test the emissions  
8 of those vehicles annually to ensure that the vehicles' emissions  
9 comply with standards established by the director. A report of the  
10 results of the tests shall be submitted to the department.

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