

1 H.412

2 Introduced by Representatives Surprenant of Barnard and Noyes of Wolcott

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; inspections; study committee

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make the  
7 annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections biennial and form a  
8 study committee to investigate the effect that motor vehicle inspections have  
9 on Vermonters with low income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the  
10 State, and Vermonters who are elders.

11 An act relating to motor vehicle inspections

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

13 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1222(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Except for school buses, which shall be inspected as prescribed in  
15 section 1282 of this title, and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of  
16 this title, which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month  
17 intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall undergo a biennial  
18 safety and visual emissions inspection ~~once each year~~ and all motor vehicles  
19 that are registered in this State and are 16 model years old or less shall undergo  
20 ~~an~~ a biennial emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection ~~once~~

1 ~~each year~~ as applicable. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not  
2 currently inspected in this State shall be inspected within 15 days following the  
3 date of its registration in the State of Vermont.

4 Sec. 2. STUDY COMMITTEE ON EFFECT OF INSPECTIONS

5 (a) Creation. There is created the Motor Vehicle Inspections Study  
6 Committee to investigate the effect that motor vehicle inspections have on  
7 Vermonters with low income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the State,  
8 and Vermonters who are elders.

9 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
10 members:

11 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by  
12 the Speaker of the House;

13 (2) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on  
14 Committees;

15 (3) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee;

16 (4) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

17 (5) the Commissioner of Aging, Disabilities, and Independent Living or  
18 designee;

19 (6) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee;

20 (7) the Agency of Transportation's Public Transit Program Manager or  
21 designee;

1           (8) one member who shall be an employee of a Vermont community  
2           action agency, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3           (9) one member who shall be a member of the Vermont Vehicle and  
4           Automotive Distributors Association, appointed by the Committee on  
5           Committees;

6           (10) one member who shall be an inspection mechanic certified by the  
7           Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1227, appointed by  
8           the Speaker of the House; and

9           (11) one member who shall be affiliated with the Vermont Council on  
10          Rural Development, appointed by the Committee on Committees.

11          (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the effect of motor  
12          vehicle inspections, both safety and emissions, on Vermonters with low  
13          income, Vermonters who live in rural parts of the State, and Vermonters who  
14          are elders, including the following issues:

15               (1) the federal consequences of switching to biennial inspections, or  
16               eliminating inspections;

17               (2) whether mandatory safety inspections in Vermont are keeping unsafe  
18               cars off the road;

19               (3) the average cost of repairs necessitated by a failed inspection, split  
20               up by safety and the different types of emissions inspections; and

1           (4) recommendations on assistance programs that can be developed to  
2           minimize the costs of a failed inspection to Vermonters.

3           (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
4           and legal assistance of the Agency of Transportation.

5           (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Committee shall submit a  
6           written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the  
7           House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health  
8           and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

9           (f) Meetings.

10           (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee shall call the first  
11           meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 1, 2023.

12           (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the  
13           first meeting.

14           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

15           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 15, 2024.

16           (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

17           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
18           Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in that capacity shall  
19           be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant  
20           to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be  
21           made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

1           (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem  
2           compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
3           § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from  
4           monies appropriated to the Agency of Transportation.

5           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

6           (a) This section and Sec. 2 (Study Committee) shall take effect on passage.

7           (b) Sec. 1 (biennial inspection; 23 V.S.A. § 1222(a)) shall take effect on  
8           July 1, 2023.