

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 845

Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted 4/24/97

Short Title: Study I & M Program.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 15, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 **AN ACT TO DIRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**
3 **AND THE DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES, WITH THE**
5 **ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE DIVISION OF MOTOR**
6 **VEHICLES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO STUDY THE**
7 **COSTS AND BENEFITS OF EXPANDING THE EMISSIONS INSPECTION AND**
8 **MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, TO IMPROVE**
9 **COMPLIANCE WITH THE CURRENT EMISSIONS INSPECTION AND**
10 **MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND TO DIRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL**
11 **REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY WHETHER THE EMISSIONS**
12 **INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED**
13 **FROM THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO THE DIVISION OF AIR**
14 **QUALITY.**

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 Section 1. The Environmental Management Commission and the Division of
17 Air Quality of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, with the
18 assistance and cooperation of the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of
19 Transportation, shall study whether the emissions inspection and maintenance program

1 for motor vehicles administered under G.S. 20-128.2 and Part 2 of Article 3A of Chapter
2 20 of the General Statutes should be expanded to include all metropolitan counties. The
3 study shall evaluate the costs and benefits of expanding the program, including the
4 benefits resulting from a reduction in the likelihood that those counties will not meet the
5 national ambient air quality standards for ozone and carbon monoxide in the future,
6 thereby incurring the restrictions on industries, power plants, vehicles, and other activities
7 that apply to nonattainment counties. Beginning 1 January 1998, the Environmental
8 Management Commission shall report its findings, recommendations, and any legislative
9 proposals regarding the matters to be evaluated pursuant to this section to the
10 Environmental Review Commission as part of the quarterly report the Environmental
11 Management Commission is required to make to the Environmental Review Commission
12 by G.S. 143B-282(b).

13 Section 2. The Environmental Management Commission, the Division of Air
14 Quality of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and the
15 Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation shall take appropriate
16 steps to ensure that the current emissions inspection and maintenance program for motor
17 vehicles administered under G.S. 20-128.2 and Part 2 of Article 3A of Chapter 20 of the
18 General Statutes is effectively implemented and enforced. Beginning 1 October 1997,
19 the Environmental Management Commission shall report its findings, recommendations,
20 and any legislative proposals regarding the implementation and enforcement of the
21 emissions inspection and maintenance program to the Environmental Review
22 Commission as part of the quarterly report the Environmental Management Commission
23 is required to make to the Environmental Review Commission by G.S. 143B-282(b). The
24 Division of Motor Vehicles shall report on its progress in meeting the requirements of
25 this section to the Environmental Review Commission on a quarterly basis beginning 1
26 October 1997.

27 Section 3. The Environmental Review Commission shall study the
28 administration of the emissions inspection and maintenance program for motor vehicles
29 under G.S. 20-128.2 and Part 2 of Article 3A of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes and
30 whether that program should be transferred from the Division of Motor Vehicles of the
31 Department of Transportation to the Environmental Management Commission and the
32 Division of Air Quality in the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural
33 Resources. The Environmental Review Commission shall report its findings,
34 recommendations, and legislative proposals, if any, to the 1998 Regular Session of the
35 General Assembly.

36 Section 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.