

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1702

H.P. 1254

House of Representatives, March 20, 2001

An Act to Amend the Enhanced Motor Vehicle Inspection Program.

Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative CRESSEY of Baldwin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA, §1751, sub-§2-A,** as enacted by PL 1997, c.
4 786, §1, is amended to read:

6 **2-A. Enhanced inspection.** Beginning January 1, 1999, a
8 motor vehicle that is required to be registered in Cumberland
10 County and that is subject to inspection pursuant to subsection 1
is subject to inspection:

12 A. Equipment subject to inspection pursuant to subsection 2;

14 B. The fuel tank cap on 1974 and subsequent models of
16 gasoline-powered vehicles; and

18 C. The on-board diagnostic system on 1996 and subsequent
models.

20 ~~A motor vehicle that is not required to be registered in~~
22 ~~Cumberland County may have an enhanced inspection under this~~
~~subsection.~~

24 Beginning January 1, 2002, this subsection applies to any motor
26 vehicles required to be registered in the State and that is
subject to inspection.

28 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1751, sub-§3, ¶¶C and D,** as enacted by PL
30 1997, c. 786, §2, are amended to read:

32 C. From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999, for motor
34 vehicles registered in Cumberland County, the fee for an
enhanced inspection under subsection 2-A is \$9.50; and

36 D. Beginning January 1, 2000, for motor vehicles registered
38 in Cumberland County, the fee for an enhanced inspection
under subsection 2-A is \$9.50 for each inspection performed
on pre-1996 models and \$12.50 for each inspection performed
on 1996 and subsequent models; and

40 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1751, sub-§3, ¶E** is enacted to read:

42 E. For motor vehicles registered in any county other than
44 Cumberland County, the fee for an enhanced inspection under
46 subsection 2-A is \$6.50.

48 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA, §1751, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

50 5. Implementation in counties other than Cumberland
County. The enhanced inspection required by subsection 2-A must

2 be implemented in counties other than Cumberland County as
3 follows.

4 A. The fuel tank cap is subject to inspection beginning
5 January 1, 2002.

6
7 B. The on-board diagnostic system is subject to inspection
8 beginning January 1, 2003. A motor vehicle may not fail
9 inspection for failure to meet the inspection standard for
10 the on-board diagnostic system until January 1, 2004.

11 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §1762, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 1997, c.
12 786, §5, is amended to read:

13
14 **8. Enhanced inspection stations.** Beginning January 1,
15 1999, official inspection stations located in Cumberland County
16 and beginning January 1, 2002, official inspection stations
17 located in any other county shall offer enhanced inspections
18 pursuant to section 1751, subsection 2-A and may not offer
19 inspections pursuant to section 1751, subsection 2. Official
20 inspection stations located outside of Cumberland County may
21 offer inspections under section 1751, subsections 2 and 2-A. An
22 inspection station that offers enhanced inspections shall employ
23 an inspection mechanic certified to perform enhanced inspections.
24

25 **Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §5219-U** is enacted to read:

26
27 **§5219-U. Catalytic converter diagnostic test equipment purchased**
28 **by licensed inspection stations**

29
30 An official inspection station licensed under Title 29-A,
31 section 1762 is allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this
32 Part on income earned by that station in an amount equal to the
33 cost paid between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 to
34 purchase up to 2 catalytic converter diagnostic testing devices
35 required to perform the enhanced motor vehicle inspection
36 required under Title 29-A, section 1751, subsection 2-A. After
37 December 31, 2002, an official inspection station is entitled to
38 a credit equal to the cost paid to purchase a new catalytic
39 converter diagnostic testing device to replace one that fails.
40

41 **Sec. 7. Motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program**
42 **requirement.** The Department of Environmental Protection shall
43 submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency a
44 revision to the state implementation plan, required in the
45 federal Clean Air Act, Section 110, 42 United States Code,
46 Section 7410, that incorporates the motor vehicle inspection
47 program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, chapter 15,
48 subchapter 1, as amended by this Act, to meet the requirement for
49 a vehicle emission control inspection and maintenance program in
50

2 the federal Clean Air Act, Section 184, 42 United States Code,
Section 7511c.

4

6 SUMMARY

8 This bill extends to the entire State the enhanced motor
vehicle inspection program currently limited to motor vehicles
10 registered in Cumberland County. Under this bill, the program
applies statewide beginning on January 1, 2002 and is phased into
12 the other counties over a 2-year period in the same manner in
which the program was phased in when implemented in Cumberland
14 County. The fee for the enhanced inspection for all counties
other than Cumberland County remains at the current amount of
16 \$6.50.

18 The bill also provides a tax credit in tax year 2002 for
official inspection stations who purchase the catalytic converter
diagnostic testing devices necessary to conduct the enhanced
20 inspections and allows a credit in 2003 and beyond for official
inspection stations who must purchase a new testing device to
22 replace one that fails.

24 The bill also requires the Department of Environmental
Protection to submit a revised state implementation plan to the
26 United States Environmental Protection Agency that incorporates
these changes into the enhanced motor vehicle inspection program.