

SB 512 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that fee for motor vehicle emission certificates of compliance issued after inspection at location other than Department of Environmental Quality test station, and for a test that did not use testing equipment owned by the Department, may not exceed the lowest fee for other motor vehicle emissions certificates of compliance. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

After implementation had begun on the federal Clean Air Act in the 1970s, it was determined that air quality in the Portland metro region, and the Medford area, did not meet federal standards for ozone and carbon monoxide. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was required by the Clean Air Act to mitigate this imbalance, and instituted a motor vehicle testing program in both regions. Under the program, a vehicle must not exceed certain standards for emissions in order to register, or renew registration, a motor vehicle to operate on Oregon roadways. Vehicles that do not meet emissions standards must be repaired to meet compliance before they can be registered.

The Oregon Vehicle Inspection Program operates six testing stations in the Portland area and one in Medford. The program also partners with approximately 200 private sector testing providers. Many of these private-sector providers are garages that also provide the repair services to bring vehicles into compliance, through the *DEQ Too* program. The fee for testing at DEQ testing stations is \$25 in the Portland metro region, and \$20 in the Medford area, with the fee being applied only if the vehicle passes inspection. The same fee schedule applies at *DEQ Too* testing stations, though some locations may charge an additional device usage or service fee.

Senate Bill 512 specifies that the fee for motor vehicle emission certificates of compliance that are not performed at a DEQ testing station, and that do not utilize DEQ-owned equipment, may not exceed the lowest fee for other certificates of compliance.