



HOUSE BILL 153: DOT/DEQ to Study Safety and Emissions Inspec.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 9, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Penny, Moss	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H153-CSBG-1		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 153 would require the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Quality to study the North Carolina Safety and Emissions Inspection Program.*

CURRENT LAW: As a prerequisite to registration, most motor vehicles operated on the highway are required to undergo a safety inspection or a safety and emissions inspection, depending on various circumstances. These inspections are conducted by inspection stations for a fee. Depending on the inspection type, various State and federal laws apply.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would require the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Quality to jointly study the North Carolina Safety and Emissions Inspection Program, including whether the frequency of vehicle safety and emissions inspections can be decreased or eliminated and potential changes to the program that would add to its efficiency in light of motor vehicle modernization, driver commute trends, and relevant changes to State and federal programs related to motor vehicle safety and emissions inspections, and further include in their report various points of interest, such as:

- North Carolina Safety and Emissions Inspections program background.
- A financial analysis of the program.
- Program projections due to motor vehicle modernization.
- Public safety, air quality, savings to vehicle owners, impacts on State revenue trends, and potential effects to the motor vehicle inspection station industry within this State.
- Legislative recommendations.

No later than March 1, 2026, the Departments would be required to jointly submit their report to the North Carolina General Assembly and the Fiscal Research Division, and would be required to jointly report their findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law

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