

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29312 / S1254

This legislation removes the requirement for vehicle emissions testing in the Treasure Valley under Idaho Code Section 39-116B starting July 1, 2023.

In addition, it removes statutory language that established a Treasure Valley Air Quality Council and provides a process for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to decide whether to recommend to the legislature that Regional Air Quality Councils be formed to address future air quality concerns when stated thresholds are met.

Recent transportation modeling has shown that due to fleet modernization and other factors, the vehicle emissions testing program is no longer as effective as it once was in reducing emissions.

In 2010, the Canyon County and City of Kuna program was established in response to Idaho Code 39-116B. It is administered through a contractor and overseen by DEQ. Ada County and its cities entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with DEQ wherein the parties agreed the current program met the requirements of Idaho Code Section 39-116B.

Ada County's program began in 1984, due to violations of the carbon monoxide (CO) ambient air quality standard. The program is implemented under local ordinances through the Air Quality Board, as a control measure in the CO state implementation plan (SIP) to reduce pollution. The SIP was approved by EPA and is currently federally enforceable.

This SIP will "sunset" at the end of 2022. DEQ intends to submit a SIP revision including a technical demonstration (emission inventory and modeling) to show the change won't affect our ability to maintain compliance with the national ambient air quality standards. DEQ expects to submit that plan later this year/early 2023 for EPA approval. Once approved the federal requirement to operate the Ada County emission testing program would be removed.

The Canyon County and Kuna programs would expire at the same time as the Ada County program, but do not require the technical demonstration to EPA.

FISCAL NOTE

Part of the money that is charged for each test goes to DEQ to fund an FTE for program oversight, incidental expenses, and an air quality public awareness campaign required by 39-116B(2)(g). Based on projections, DEQ expects the fund balance to reach roughly \$150,300 by FY2023. DEQ plans to work with industry partners to utilize the remaining funds and may use those funds to reimburse contractors for equipment used in testing which would require additional legislative approval in another bill.

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).

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