

(Senate Joint Resolution 45)

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION concerning

Motor Vehicle Emissions and Safety Standards

FOR the purpose of directing the Department of Transportation to investigate all possible alternative and optional methods for the enforcement of [[vehicle exhaust emission levels and]] vehicle safety equipment standards [[and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to investigate all possible alternative and optional methods for the establishment of vehicle exhaust emission standards; providing for coordination of both investigations; and the reporting of the investigations]] and vehicle exhaust emission levels.

WHEREAS, By publication in 38 FR 238, December 12, 1973, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has directed that Maryland must provide for a program of inspection and maintenance of vehicle exhaust emissions for vehicles operating on Maryland highways beginning not later than August 1, 1975, and that Maryland shall not register or allow to operate on its highways after July 31, 1976, any vehicle that does not comply with applicable standards adopted pursuant to law; and

WHEREAS, Standard No. 1 of the 18 Federal Highway Safety Program standards requires that each state must adopt a system of periodic motor vehicle inspection to determine that each vehicle complies with established standards for motor vehicle safety equipment or be subject to a penalty of having 10 percent of its highway aid funds withheld by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which in the case of Maryland would amount to an estimated \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, During the years of 1972, 1973 and 1974 the Maryland General Assembly did not enact legislation designed to provide for the required inspection programs; and

WHEREAS, Some sort of legal action or penalty imposition by both Federal agencies involved is more imminent, particularly in light of recent notice by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the 10 percent penalty would be imposed on Maryland unless immediate action be taken to comply with the provisions of Highway Safety Program Standard No. 8 dealing with blood alcohol levels for determination of driving under the influence; and

WHEREAS, Fuel conservation efforts, the current