

WHEREAS, The State has diligently pursued its State Implementation Plan with a mandatory inspection and maintenance program as a part of that plan for 1983 through 1987; and

WHEREAS, The State has gone forward with the preliminary and implementation phases of the mandatory program by contracting with a firm that has agreed to install and operate the inspection facilities; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is wary of making statutory changes that could result in the loss of certain federal funds to the State; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is aware of a certain changing attitude toward the Federal Clean Air Act on Capitol Hill and of certain federal legislative proposals that would relax the requirements of that Act so that a state could make changes to its State Implementation Plan without fear of federal cutbacks; and

WHEREAS, The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has made recent public statements indicating opposition to federally mandated vehicle inspection and maintenance programs; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is in Session for only 90 days and it is unlikely such federal action will be taken by the time of adjournment of the General Assembly on April 12, 1982; and

WHEREAS, Because the mandatory inspection and maintenance program is statutorily required to take effect before the General Assembly convenes for the 1983 Session, the General Assembly feels it is necessary to modify the date of implementation in order that it is deferred until such time as it is more likely that a definitive federal position has been established; and

WHEREAS, This deferral will allow the General Assembly during its 1983 Session to evaluate and modify, or repeal, if appropriate, the program in light of the Federal position; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly intends to pursue, in good faith, the attainment of the ambient air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows: