
CONSENT

Bill No: AB 272
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D)
Amended: 3/13/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/18/25
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Dahle, Hurtado, Menjivar, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez, Padilla

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 15-0, 7/8/25
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle,
Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/1/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

SOURCE: California Trucking Association

DIGEST: This bill specifies the deadline for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to provide the first of the two currently required biennial reports on the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program (HD I/M) to be December 31, 2026.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires CARB to adopt and implement a regulation for a HD I/M for non-gasoline, heavy-duty, on-road motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, as specified (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 44152(a)).

- 2) Requires CARB to issue a Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Compliance Certificate to vehicle owners and operators, and requires vehicle owners to keep that certificate of compliance with the vehicle and present it to a peace officer upon demand, as specified (HSC § 44152 (c)).
- 3) Requires that within four years following the full implementation of the program, CARB shall provide two biennial reports on its internet website including, but not limited, to enforcement, operation downtime, and an estimate of emissions reduced and cost-effectiveness. (HSC § 44152 (m)).

This bill specifies that CARB must provide the first of two biennial reports on enforcement, downtime, emissions reductions, and cost-effectiveness of HD I/M by December 31, 2026.

Background

- 1) *Vehicle emissions.* Mobile sources and the fossil fuels that power them are the largest contributors to the formation of ozone, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and toxic diesel particulate matter. In California, they are responsible for approximately 80% of smog-forming nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. They also represent about 50% of GHG emissions when including emissions from fuel production, and more than 95% of toxic diesel particulate matter emissions. Statewide, more than 21 million out of over 39 million Californians live in areas that exceed the federal ozone standards; within these areas, there are many low-income and disadvantaged communities that are exposed to not only ozone, but also particulate and toxic, pollutant levels significantly higher than the federal standards which have immediate and detrimental health effects.
- 2) *Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program.* Senate Bill 210 (Leyva, Chapter 298, Statutes of 2019) directed CARB to develop and implement a comprehensive HD I/M regulation to ensure that vehicles' emissions control systems are properly functioning when traveling on California's roadways. The Board approved the regulation on December 9, 2021, with implementation to be phased in starting January 2023. Dubbed the Clean Truck Check, the program combines periodic vehicle testing requirements with other emissions monitoring techniques and expanded enforcement strategies to identify vehicles in need of emissions related repairs and ensure any needed repairs are performed. The program is designed to provide reductions in criteria pollutant emissions to achieve the federal air quality mandates.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, “In 2019, Senate Bill 210 (Levy) authorized the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to create the nation’s first smog check-style program for medium and heavy-duty vehicles. This bill, known as the Clean Truck Check (CTC), mandated that CARB must publish two biennial reports on its website within four years of the program's full implementation. These reports are supposed to include information on enforcement methods, operational downtime, and estimates of emissions reduced along with an evaluation of cost-effectiveness. Fees and biannual testing requirements for the program began in 2024, with quarterly testing scheduled to start in 2027. This bill ensures that CARB delivers the first of its legislatively mandated reports on CTC’s implementation by December 31, 2026, so that impacted industries receive more information about the program’s operations and effectiveness before the increase in testing starts in 2027.”
- 2) *Why does this timing matter?* Under existing law, CARB could release the first required report (about the enforcement, operational downtime, estimate of emissions reduced, and cost-effectiveness) anytime within four years of full implementation. However, more frequent testing requirements are set to increase starting in 2027. Making sure the report is out before that change helps make sure that change is supported by program outcomes, in case anything needs to be changed. It is a minor effect, but makes sense.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/25)

California Trucking Association (source)
California Bus Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/1/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell,

Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel,
Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste
Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo,
Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis,
Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, McKinnor, Papan

Prepared by: Heather Walters / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/21/25 16:45:20

**** **END** ****