

Senate Bill 12-034
Legislation Resulting from the Evaluation of the
Colorado Automobile Inspection and Readjustment (AIR) Program
Concerning Repeal of the Rapid Screen Program to Identify
High-Emitting Motor Vehicles
Recommendation No. 3, Page 39

What Would This Bill Do?

This Bill would amend Sections 42-3-304, 42-4-304, 42-4-307, 42-4-307.7, 42-4-311, and 42-4-313, and 42-4-316.5, C.R.S. to repeal those sections of statute requiring the Department of Public Health and Environment (the Department) to use the Rapid Screen Program to identify high-emitting motor vehicles.

Why Is This Bill Necessary?

The September 2009 performance evaluation of the Colorado Automobile Inspection and Readjustment (AIR) Program found that Rapid Screen is not an effective tool for identifying vehicles with high emissions. Specifically, the evaluation found that approximately 50 percent of vehicles identified by Rapid Screen as high-emitters, subsequently passed the traditional emissions test and were not in need of repair. In addition, the evaluation found that Rapid Screen identified less than 10 percent of high-emitting vehicles that failed their traditional emissions test. The evaluation concluded that if the State were to rely solely on Rapid Screen to identify high-emitting vehicles, as envisioned by House Bill 06-1302, the benefits of the AIR Program would be reduced by more than 90 percent. The Department reached the same conclusion through its recently completed pilot study that also tested the effectiveness of Rapid Screen in identifying high-emitting vehicles.

The evaluation recommended that after completing the pilot study and as informed by the final analysis of the study, the Department should seek statutory changes to reflect the limitations of Rapid Screen. This proposed legislation reflects the changes that the Department has determined are necessary to implement the recommendations.

Comments: The Department of Public Health and Environment supports this Bill.