

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

SB 157-FN, relative to inspection and registration of certain fleet vehicles and necessary amendments and administrative rules regarding the state implementation plan.

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Time Opened: 2:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:25 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Establishes a rental fleet registration program for rental passenger vehicle fleets of 50 or more vehicles.

II. Allows certain vehicles registered in the rental fleet vehicle program to be inspected upon purchase and then not until the second year after purchase.

III. Requires the department of environmental services to facilitate amendments and rulemaking concerning state implementation plans and state and federal emission laws.

Sponsors:

Sen. Ricciardi
Rep. Veilleux

Sen. Carson

Sen. Birdsell

Who supports the bill: Senator Denise Ricciardi; Tom Prasol, Enterprise Mobility; Jason Ellis, Enterprise Mobility.

Who is neutral on the bill: Jessica Wilcox, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Mike Fitzgerald, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Denise Ricciardi, District 9

- This bill establishes a registration program for rental passenger fleets with 50+ vehicles, requiring an inspection at purchase and no further inspections until the second year.

- Last year, the committee reviewed similar legislation, which aimed to extend this process to all new vehicle purchases, but it was sent for interim study.
- The bill targets companies in good standing with the Secretary of State operating such fleets.
- The Division of Motor Vehicles will distribute collected registration fees to municipalities.

Tom Prasol and Jason Ellis, Enterprise Mobility

- Mr. Prasol previously supported a similar bill last year and emphasized that the current legislation focuses on car rental companies meeting specific criteria.
- He explained that companies with a fleet of 50 or more vehicles can opt into the law by obtaining an annual certificate of good standing from the Secretary of State's office.
- When registering, companies must provide the Division of Motor Vehicles with an itemized list of their vehicles, and the Division of Motor Vehicles will allocate registration fee funds to appropriate municipalities within 30 days.
- This annual requirement forces rental car companies to either bring their New Hampshire-based vehicles back for inspection or re-title and re-register them in their current states.
- The bill would take effect upon approval from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.
- Senator Ward asked if the bill applied to specific companies or any. Mr. Prasol confirmed it would apply to any qualifying company.
- Senator Prentiss inquired about the number of rental car companies, the potential number of vehicles, and inspection requirements for out-of-state vehicles, confirming they need inspection every two years in New Hampshire. Mr. Prasol clarified that companies would send checks for multiple registrations, and any reduced inventory would be replaced.
- Senator Fenton expressed concern over the fiscal note and that the Division of Motor Vehicles was not present to answer questions. Mr. Prasol reassured him that the Department of Motor Vehicles is monitoring the legislation.

Neutral Information Presented:

- Ms. Wilcox pointed out an inaccuracy in the current language regarding RSA 125 J, which should amend RSA 266-1 instead of RSA 125 J.
- Senator Fenton asked about obtaining approval from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to modify the Clean Air Act program with this bill. Ms. Wilcox assured him that with the revised language, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services believes they will have sufficient time to propose an amendment to our state implementation plan and to conduct air quality modeling to assess the emission impacts.

