

39: 8-2 et al.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 39:8-2 et al.

Laws of 1977 Chapter 270 (Continue system of MV inspection & reinspections)

Bill No. S3275

Sponsor(s) Maressa and Vreeland

Date Introduced May 5, 1977

Committee: Assembly \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Law, Public Safety & Defense

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of passage: Assembly October 3, 1977

Senate September 19, 1977

Date of approval October 20, 1977

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes No

Senate Yes No

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

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10/4/76

SENATE, No. 3275

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1977

By Senators MARESSA and VREELAND

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT to amend "An act to revise standards and procedures for the inspection of motor vehicles, amending R. S. 49:8-2 and 39:8-4 and supplementing chapter 8 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes," approved July 16, 1975 (P. L. 1975, c. 156).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 16 of P. L. 1975, c. 156 (C. 39:8-24) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 16. This act shall take effect immediately [but the amendatory  
4 provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this act, and sections 3 through 15  
5 of this act shall terminate and be of no further force and effect on  
6 and after November 30, 1977 unless extended by act of the  
7 Legislature].

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill amends P. L. 1975, c. 156 by deleting the termination provisions which are contained in section 16 thereof. There is in existence a Motor Vehicle Inspection Study Commission which resulted from the enactment of Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28 1976. The purpose of the commission is to study the present motor vehicle inspection system and reinspection system of this State, evaluate alternatives and cost effectiveness and to make long-term recommendations for the future of inspection and reinspection in New Jersey. The appointments to the commission have been made by the Speaker of the General Assembly, President of the Senate and the Governor. The commission had its first meeting in March of 1977. The intent of this bill is to continue the present system of inspection and reinspection in effect. The commission has yet to complete its study and make its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The reinspection system enabling legislation expires in November of 1977.

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

The original legislative purpose in enacting P. L. 1975, c. 156 was to reduce the waiting time at motor vehicle inspection stations to acceptable levels while permitting the continuation of the State inspection system within the limits of available resources and physical facilities (See, Committee Statement to Assembly Bill No. 3010).

Inspection statistics conclusively demonstrate the success of the reinspection center program in carrying out the legislative intention. Approximately 700,000 fewer vehicles were handled by the State inspection system in calendar year 1976, the first full year of the reinspection system. The difference in the number of vehicles handled in the respective years can be directly attributable to the reinspection center program.

Statistics also demonstrate the success of the reinspection center program in reducing waiting times experienced in the State inspection system. In addition to the lower average waiting time, the frequency of substantial waiting times have been reduced. During peak volume months in 1974, it was not uncommon to have waiting times of up to 3 hours at some inspection stations. Waiting times are now at acceptable levels at most inspection stations. Complaints from motorists relating to unduly long waiting times have decreased significantly.

In 1974, the estimated cost of expanding the State inspection system to accommodate the projected workload was \$16 million. At that time, it was also estimated that \$4 million would be necessary for annual operating expenses. In view of the State's fiscal situation in 1974, it could not reasonably be expected that the necessary funds would be forthcoming to adequately support the State system. The expectation that sufficient moneys will be expended for the expansion of the State system still remain low.

Since the inception of the reinspection center program, 4,751 reinspection licenses have been issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. 1,018,000 vehicles have been reinspected at reinspection centers.

Effective procedures for reviewing reinspection records to determine whether violations of the reinspection law exist. There are 45 specially-trained investigators to supervise the reinspection centers. Licensed centers are inspected at least once a month at which time all records and procedures are reviewed. Close supervision has acted to both deter and ferret out violations of the reinspection laws.