

# Car must pass test or no plates issued

By TIM RICHARD

By January of 1982, your car will need to pass a tailpipe emissions test before you can purchase new license plates.

The test cost is limited to \$10, and there will be special provisions if the cost of repairs is more than \$50.

Those are the basic outlines of the 1980 Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Act (I/M) passed by the Michigan Legislature and implemented by the departments of Natural Resources and State.

But there are all sorts of fine details.

Here are their answers to basic questions from drivers:

Q. What vehicles must be tested and, if necessary, repaired each year?

A. Vehicles built in 1971 or earlier are exempt.

There are three sets of emissions standards, according to the model year of your car: 1972-74, the easiest to pass; 1975-80; and 1981 and newer, the most stringent.

Cars less than 12 months old are exempt.

Vehicles with gross weights of more than 8,500 pounds are exempt. Diesel vehicles are exempt.

Also exempt are mopeds, motorcycles and electrical vehicles.

The law applies to vehicles owned by persons living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties, where air pollution problems are worst.

Q. I'm out of a job and can't really spare money for either an emissions test or repairs. What can I do?

A. Persons on Medicaid and general assistance (welfare) have had their vehicles exempted. You need to show some proof of such a status when purchasing your new license plates.

Q. Couldn't someone beat the system by registering his car in the name of his grandmother on Medicaid, or by using a friend's address outside Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Washtenaw counties?

A. Maybe for awhile. The number of persons on Medicaid is known; if there are more vehicles exempted for this reason than there are persons on Medicaid, the state can do some checking and crack down.

As for using a false address, you'd make more problems for yourself than the savings would be worth. Your vehicle registration wouldn't match your driver's license address, voter registration and printed bank checks.

Q. Why are diesels and big trucks exempt?

A. They emit different kinds of pollutants. Diesels are a small part of the fleet. If their emissions become a problem, they could be brought under the act later.

As for large trucks, they were designed to "run dirty," and there's little you can do to clean them up. Autos, however, have been the subject of federal emissions standards for years.

Q. What happens to the vehicles which flunk the emissions test?

A. Michigan expects about 20 percent of the tested vehicles to fail. A tuneup of emissions equipment, which should cost less than \$50, will correct most defective cars.

If your vehicle fails the first test, you are issued a certificate entitling you to your re-test free.

Q. What if the repairs are estimated to cost me more than \$50?

A. The owner need only purchase a low emissions tuneup. There are legal provisions for going easy on persons for whom the cost is more.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency says the average cost of repairs is well under \$50.

This \$50 limit will be changed in future years as the consumer price index reflects inflation.

The \$50 limit doesn't apply if you have tampered with your car's anti-pollution devices, or if your catalyst is fouled from using leaded gasoline.

Q. If my vehicle needs an emissions tuneup, can I have it done by my regular garage, or must it be done by the testing station?

A. The work must be done by a state-certified mechanic, whether at the testing station or your favorite garage.

The testing station will issue you a notification of failure if your vehicle flunks the test.

# Abortion ban veto is upheld

Gov. William G. Milliken's veto of a bill prohibiting Medicaid-funded abortions has been upheld.

The state House of Representatives Tuesday voted 65-42 to override the veto, nine votes short of the required two-thirds majority.

Earlier in the day, the senate voted to override the veto, 26-12; the bare two-thirds required.

Unless the house reconsiders its vote, Milliken's veto will stand. The governor has successfully turned back every legislative attempt to deny Medicaid recipients state-funded abortions.

TWO KEY suburban lawmakers — Republicans Jack Kirksey and Sylvia Skrel, both of Livonia — switched to support Milliken after voting for the bill a week ago. They said they acted out of loyalty to Milliken.

Oakland County representatives voting to override (hence supporting a ban on Medicaid abortions) were W.V. Brotherton, R-Farmington; Richard Fessler, R-Union Lake; and Sal Rocca, D-Sterling Heights, representing part of Troy.

Opposed were James Defebaugh, R-Birmingham; Joseph Forbes, D-Oak Park, representing part of Southfield; Ruth McNamee, R-Birmingham; and Alice Tomboulain, D-Oakland Township.

Medicaid funds, 90 percent federal, pay for approximately one-third of the 40,000-plus Michigan abortions.

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During all the seasonal celebration and merriment, parents should remember alcohol is a danger to children. Unfinished drinks left on coffee tables, the floor or any place easily accessible to a child provides them opportunity to drink whatever is in the glasses.

Also, pre-mixed, creamy fruit-flavored cocktails are easily mistaken for milk and consumed by young children. It is possible for a child to consume enough to suffer hypoglycemia, stupor or coma.

Alcohol is an ingredient in many colognes, aftershave and perfumes which find their way under the Christmas tree. It is suggested bottles should have safety caps and be placed out of reach of youngsters.

If any poisonous substance is swallowed, call the Poison Control Center 24-hour line at 494-5711.

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