



Federal News

- [The Preventing Auto Recycling Theft \(PART\) Act, H.R. 621](#), has acquired new cosponsors. U.S. Representatives Chris Pappas (D-NH) and Mike Flood (R-NE) have signed onto the bill, bringing its cosponsor tally to 73 (40 Democrats and 33 Republicans). It would require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to mandate inscribed or affixed identifying numbers on catalytic converters in new vehicles and create a grant program to allow certain entities – including “automobile repair shops and service centers” – to stamp VINs onto catalytic converters of vehicles already on the road. The bill would also require repairers to keep records of sellers of motor vehicle parts that contain precious metals for at least two years. Additionally, anyone who steals a catalytic converter or possesses or installs a catalytic converter they know is stolen can be sent to prison for up to five years.
- A federal circuit court has [issued a ruling in a suit brought by LKQ](#) that will likely upend how automotive parts patent eligibility is determined. Historically, automakers’ visual design on parts were subject to a certain obviousness test. The court ruled that a 2007 Supreme Court ruling invalidated that test for being too rigid. The circuit court’s ruling is expected to make it easier for aftermarket part manufacturers to make parts without infringing on OEM patents.
- U.S. Representative Adrian Smith (R-NE) has introduced [H.R. 8398, the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Reform Act](#). It would reduce tariffs on many products, including certain vehicle components. For example, a vehicle stability control actuator assembly would see its import tax reduced from 2.3% to 1.5%. The changes to tariffs would not apply to products made in China.

State News

- Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) signed [Connecticut SB 183](#) into law. It will require that salvage vehicles be inspected at DMV-authorized repair shops. Current law requires they be inspected at a DMV facility. The bill will also eliminate the requirement that applicants for new or renewed vehicle repairer licenses submit a background check less than 30 days before submitting the application. It will go into effect on October 1, 2024.
- [Missouri House Bill \(HB\) 1530](#) passed in the State House’s Transportation Infrastructure Committee on a 8-0. vote. HB 1530 would permit new or used vehicle dealers to conduct vehicle safety inspections on vehicles that are less than three years removed from the vehicle’s model year of manufacture and have been driven fewer than 50,000 miles. The bill also requires vehicle sellers submit a vehicle to a safety inspection within sixty days of its sale if the vehicle has been driven more than 50,000 miles and is older than three years since its manufacture year.



- [California SB 301](#) is now on Governor Newsom's (D) desk. This bill would provide tax rebates to vehicle owners who convert their vehicle's powertrain to electric. It would also require a vehicle converted into an EV pass a vehicle safety inspection before becoming eligible for the rebate.
- The Illinois State Legislature passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 251](#). It passed the House 65-45 and Senate 38-21. SB 251 is an all-encompassing appropriations bill for fiscal year 2025. It includes a provision that appropriates \$24.8 million for several electric vehicle-related purposes, including providing supplemental training for state employees to maintain and repair EVs. ASA supports legislation that enables private sector auto repair technicians to receive such training.
- By a 16-3 vote, a New Hampshire State House committee has amended a bill meant to make it easier for dealerships to sell vehicles to Massachusetts residents by adding language that would change the state's vehicle safety inspection requirements. As amended, [SB 510](#) would push back the date vehicles must undergo an inspection by a year. It would also make it harder for a vehicle to fail an inspection.
- The New York State Assembly's transportation committee approved [A8190](#) by a unanimous 23-0 vote. This bill would require the state to study whether the state's vehicle safety inspection program should be updated.

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