



*A bimonthly news update from ASA's legislative activities.*

September/October 2015



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**Recent activities of ASA's Washington, D.C., office ...**

**Vehicle Safety Inspection Update**

The next phase of the Automotive Service Association's (ASA) mission to raise awareness about the importance of periodic vehicle inspection programs and develop strategies to protect these programs begins in December 2015. That's when ASA plans to host its second annual Vehicle Safety Inspection and Maintenance Forum.

Like the first event, which took place in Philadelphia in 2014. It will be a half-day program held in conjunction with ASA-Midwest and the Missouri Alliance of Automotive Service Providers (AASP-MO). It will take place from noon-4 p.m. Dec. 2 at Hunter Engineering in Bridgeton, Mo., located in the St. Louis area.

Forum participants include:

- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- Motor vehicle administrators
- Law enforcement
- Aftermarket representatives
- Automotive repairers

ASA encourages anyone involved in the automotive industry to attend this important automotive safety program. Please visit [www.TakingTheHill.com](http://www.TakingTheHill.com) to register for this free event.

**Michigan Senate Schedules Parts Procurement Bill**

The Michigan Committee on Insurance has scheduled a hearing Dec 2, 2015, on Senate Bill 430. ASA supports S. 430, which curtails mandatory parts procurement processes.

**EPA Finalizes Ozone Regulation**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the final version of its new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. The new rule tightened the previous standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb.

The U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology held a hearing titled, "EPA's 2015 Ozone Standard: Concerns Over Science and Implementation."

ASA included a presentation on the proposed regulation during July's NACE | CARS in Detroit.

**Pennsylvania Bill Would Weaken Inspection Program**

Pennsylvania House Bill 1614, introduced by state Rep. Jaret Gibbons (D-10) seeks to eliminate emissions inspections for certain vehicles. The bill, which is currently before the House Committee on Transportation, includes the following provisions:

- Vehicles never before registered in the state will be exempt from emission inspections for 10 years from the date of original registration.
- Vehicles powered by electric, hybrid-electric or compressed natural gas will be exempt from emission inspections.

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) opposes the 10-year emissions inspection exemption.

**Digital Millennium Copyright Act Exemptions Released**

The Librarian of Congress has released the sixth triennial set

of exemptions to the prohibition of circumvention of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Circumvention, in the context of the DMCA, refers to the bypassing of technological measures employed by, or on behalf of, copyright owners to protect their works.

In regard to automotive repair, the document recognizes the growing need for repairers to be able to access and sometimes alter vehicle software. The final exemption would allow repairers to modify programs that are:

"... contained in and control the functioning of a motorized land vehicle such as a personal automobile, commercial motor vehicle or mechanized agricultural vehicle, except for computer programs primarily designed for the control of telematics or entertainment systems for such vehicle, when circumvention is a necessary step undertaken by the authorized owner of the vehicle to allow the diagnosis, repair or lawful modification of a vehicle function."

Under the exemption, the circumvention must not constitute a violation of applicable law. The new circumvention exceptions are set to take effect in 12 months.

The Automotive Service Association's (ASA) leadership has expressed concern about the telematics language in those exemptions, in that it excludes third-party access to "telematics and entertainment systems." ASA has been deeply involved with vehicle technologies and telematics, hosting aftermarket and automaker forums, educational sessions and meetings with congressional and administration policymakers.

**Insurance Regulatory Standards Reviewed**

The U.S. Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance under the U.S. House Financial Services Committee held a hearing titled "The Impact of Domestic Regulatory Standards on the U.S. Insurance Market." The purpose of this hearing was to address the effects of international insurance standards on the domestic markets, coordination of state and federal regulation and accessibility issues for individuals.

The single panel of witnesses included:

- Michael McRaith, director, Federal Insurance Office (FIO), U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Tom Sullivan, senior adviser, Department of Banking Supervision and Regulation, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
- John Huff, director, Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration, representing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- The Hon. S. Roy Woodall Jr., independent member, Financial Stability Oversight Council, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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