



The New Hampshire Auto Dealers Association is a statewide trade association, representing the interests of the motor vehicle industry.

NHADA consists of: all of the new-car and new-truck dealers in the state, along with motorcycle, snowmobile, on and off-road recreational vehicle, farm equipment, used-car, power equipment, and construction equipment dealers, as well as independent motor vehicle service, auto body repair, and motor vehicle parts sales facilities.



NHADA Opposes HB 646: The annual vehicle safety inspection process is about maintaining safe NH vehicles and roadways for motorists in our state. Similar legislation has been proposed over the years to modify the state's vehicle safety inspection program. The most recent attempt was in 2022 which the Transportation Committee overwhelmingly voted 18-0 to ITL as did the House of Representatives by a voice vote on the consent calendar. Many other attempts, including 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2020 all have been defeated.

Analysis: NHADA opposes HB 646 for the following reasons:

- Vehicle inspections can catch recalls that effect the safety of the vehicle and save consumers money. The annual inspection program catches safety deficiencies that are covered under manufacturers warranties that NH consumers do not have to pay out of pocket.
- The Institute for Research in Public Safety and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, mechanical defects and/or worn equipment on vehicles was a causative or an aggravating factor in 12.6 percent of crashes-over 850,000 accidents could have been avoided.
- A Pennsylvania study conducted in 2009 concluded that state inspections play a significant role in saving lives. It stated that the Pennsylvania inspection program has reduced the number of fatal crashes by 115-169, saving 127-187 lives. If the annual inspection program in NH saves but 1 life, it's worth it!
- Preventative maintenance and annual inspections save the consumer money. A steering component repair can cost \$300 versus a steering component failure can cost over \$3000.
- Annual vehicle inspections are the best value on Main Street. The competitive free market determines the cost of an annual inspection and provides the NH consumer with expert advice on their vehicle from a trained and NH licensed technician. With annual inspections, problems can be found while vehicles are still covered by the manufacturers' warranties, saving citizens money!
- All of our neighboring states have inspection requirements. ME, MA, VT, PA, and NY all have annual

safety inspections. Our New England climate and road conditions are contributing factors.

- New Hampshire has a high vehicle failure rate, even with an annual inspection program. The 2022 rate was at least 14% for critical inspection items such as brakes, tires, and steering. Because of the way vehicle failure are reported the numbers are likely much higher than 15%. *See Charts

TEST YEAR 2022		
Top Safety Deficiencies*	Count of Deficiencies	% of Tests
Brakes	76,958	4.9%
Steering	52,624	3.4%
Tires	42,560	2.7%
Body/Chassis Rust Defects	15,726	1.0%
Stop Lights	8,329	0.5%
Total Safety Tests	1,562,327	
Total Safety Deficiencies	224,892	14.4%
* Deficiency = Rejected or Corrected		

TEST YEAR 2021		
Top Safety Deficiencies*	Count of Deficiencies	% of Tests
Brakes	77,355	4.9%
Steering	53,426	3.4%
Tires	43,426	2.7%
Body/Chassis Rust Defects	15,274	1.0%
Stop Lights	8,912	0.6%
Total Safety Tests	1,588,466	
Total Safety Deficiencies	224,839	14.2%
* Deficiency = Rejected or Corrected		

TEST YEAR 2020		
Top Safety Deficiencies*	Count of Deficiencies	% of Tests
Brakes	80,462	5.2%
Steering	57,198	3.7%
Tires	46,586	3.0%
Body/Chassis Rust Defects	15,250	1.0%
Stop Lights	10,017	0.6%
Total Safety Tests	1,562,259	
Total Safety Deficiencies	231,057	14.8%
* Deficiency = Rejected or Corrected		

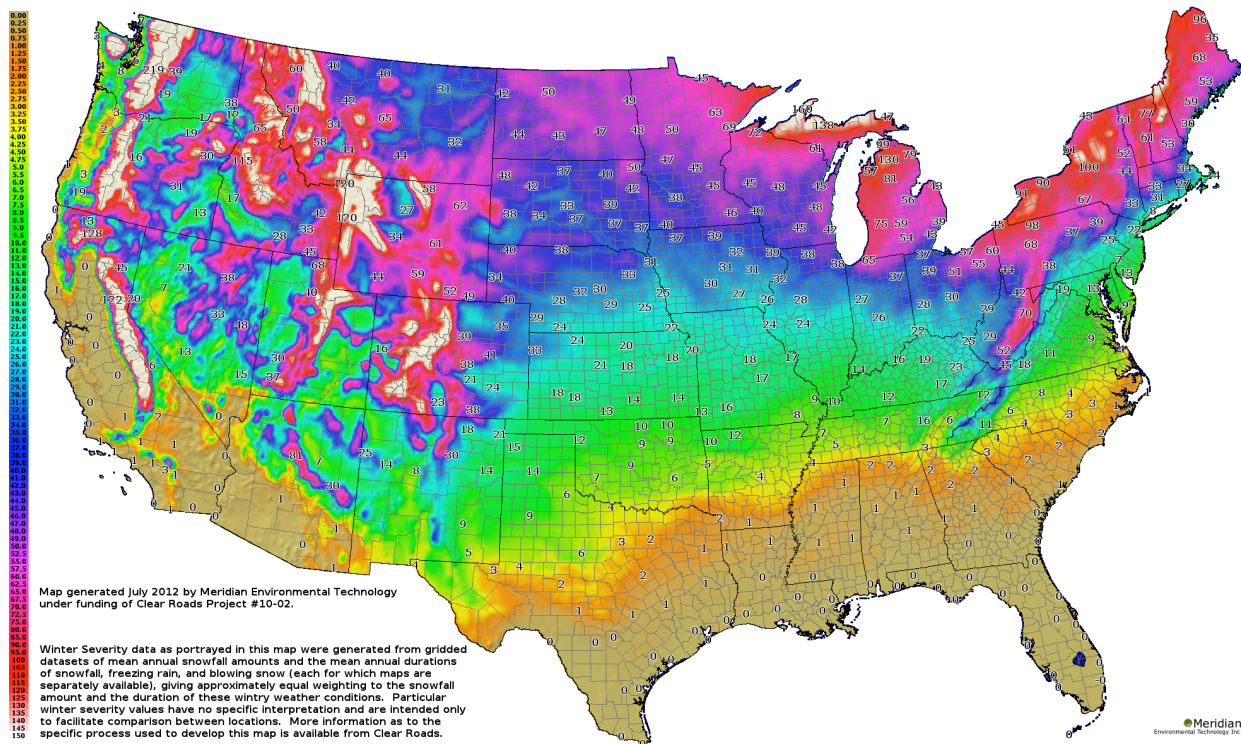
Test Year	2019	
Total Safety Tests	1,598,283	
Total Safety Deficiencies	250,580	15.68%
Most Common Safety Deficiencies		
Brakes	86,079	5.39%
Steering	64,288	4.02%
Tires	51,846	3.24%
Body/Chassis Rust Defects	17,628	1.10%
Stop Lights	11,433	0.72%

- HB 646 will have a significant fiscal impact to the state and local municipalities: the bill cost an will cause an over \$500k revenue decrease annually to local sources and an over \$4 million decrease to the state highway fund.
- Annual vehicle safety inspections are the mechanism by which we do our federal clean air act required emissions monitoring. By scrapping the annual inspection program, the OBD II testing will likely go away as well; hence putting federal highway funds at risk of loss or sanction.
- The state will be put at a further fiscal risk due to our eligibility FMCSA grant funds.
- The bill also wipes out inspections for all antique vehicles.
- HB 646 is opposed by NHADA, AAA, DMV, DOS, NH Motorcyclists Rights Organization, and the NH Traffic Safety Commission.
- Between June 2021 and November 2021, the New Hampshire State inspection system recall check notified citizens of 172,174 open safety recalls as determined by NHTSA.

- New Hampshire has a very harsh climate. Weather causes vehicles and components to wear out a lot faster than other states. We cannot compare our inspection program to other states, such as Arizona, California, Florida, and Colorado (a drier but snowy state). *See Winter Severity Map



U.S. Winter Severity
for Winter Road Maintenance



Comments: Vote ITL (inexpedient to legislate) on HB 646! Keep NH's roads and citizens safe. The NH Automobile Dealers Association represents over 575 members and 13,000 employees involved in motor vehicle businesses in NH and strongly opposes HB 646. For further information, please contact Dan Bennett at 603-224-2369.



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NHADA.com