

Proposed Calif. law aims to reduce smog test fraud

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LOS ANGELES -- A proposed state law would make sure smog tests aren't just smoke and mirrors.

Legislation introduced this week by Assemblyman Mike Eng of Monterey Park would change the way the tests are conducted and allow regulators to ban some testers.

The bill was sponsored by the California Air Resources Board, which says there's widespread fraud in the smog inspection program, which covers some 23 million cars.

A state audit found that nearly a third of older-model cars that underwent roadside smog tests in Southern California between 2000 and 2006 failed them - even though inspection stations had passed them.

The bill would phase out the old-fashioned tailpipe reading system in favor of a different system that makes fraud more difficult.