



## **State Senator Don Huffines - Senate District 16 (Dallas)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2017

Contact: Brent Connett  
(512- 463-0116)

### **SEN. HUFFINES PASSES BILL TO END THE 'VEHICLE INSPECTION TAX'**

*Senate Bill 1588 ends a useless state-mandated chore that robs Texans of their time & money*

AUSTIN – Noting that drivers in thirty-four states do not have to endure state-mandated vehicle "safety" inspections, and that volumes of research indicate that so-called "safety" inspections do nothing to make roads safer, Senator Don Huffines (R-Dallas) passed Senate Bill 1588 out of the Texas Senate to end the "vehicle inspection tax" on Texas drivers' time and money.

Senator Huffines stated, "The passenger vehicle 'safety' inspection is predicated on a false promise. With significant technological advances in vehicle design and technology, this 66-year-old program is a relic of the past. State government is wasting Texans' time & money on the annual chore of passenger inspections when 34 other states, including California, Illinois, Florida, and most of our neighboring states, don't require it of their drivers. A wide range of studies confirm that inspections aren't about safety. Instead, it's clear that they're simply an unjustified tax on Texans' time and money."

In 1976, the federal government stopped requiring states to implement a vehicle inspection program. In early 2017, Utah repealed its vehicle inspection mandate; as of 2018, Texas will be one of only 15 states that still needlessly taxes drivers' time and money. Groups ranging from *AAA Texas* to the auto insurance industry agree that inspections do nothing to make roads safer.

Senator Huffines continued, "Texas drivers are in an unfortunate minority. Unlike 200 million drivers across the United States, Texas drivers are forced to waste their time and money each year on a vehicle inspection that does not contribute to safer roads. It's a state-mandated rip-off, and it's got to stop now."

Every day, the "vehicle inspection tax" forces an average of 50,000 Texas drivers to endure a costly and needless inspection. Under Senator Huffines' bipartisan proposal, which the Texas Senate passed by a vote of 27 to 4, drivers would save at least \$7.00 per vehicle. Across the state, this tax cut approximately \$130 million annually, alongside the return of approximately 9 million hours that are currently lost to obtaining an inspection. SB 1588 would redirect the resources formerly associated with the passenger vehicle safety inspection program into road safety funding for the Texas Department of Transportation to be used more efficiently and effectively to actually make roads safer. The bill is revenue-neutral to the state, and it does not repeal or otherwise affect emissions inspections in Texas' non-attainment counties.

Senator Huffines concluded, "Time is our most precious resource. Without the 'vehicle inspection tax,' hardworking Texans will find much better uses for their time and money. As a watchdog for Texas taxpayers, I am thrilled to stand with a bipartisan group of state Senators in fighting for the end of this needless tax on Texans' time and money. "

###

*Senator Don Huffines represents the North half of Dallas County in the Texas Senate. First elected in 2014 and now serving in his second legislative session, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, and as a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Administration.*

**State Senator Don Huffines**  
*Senate District 16*

[www.huffines.senate.texas.gov](http://www.huffines.senate.texas.gov)