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### Economic Analysis of SB17-278

Senate Bill 17-278 intends to discourage the alteration of personal motor vehicles to remove or tamper with pollution control systems, and in general, to prohibit engagement in num#



social costs attributed to particulate air pollution, and they suggest that these costs are not small.

These estimates range from \$267 billion to \$885 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> If all 7.5 billion people on

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high. Since those who tamper with pollution control systems in their vehicles presumably intend to produce excessive pollution repeatedly, there should be a much higher fine associated with the action. A \$35 fine is not satisfactory and needs to be increased significantly to correct the externalities associated with tampering with pollution control systems.

SB17-278 will certainly benefit the general welfare of the State. In the future the General Assembly should look to establish more legislation that seeks to internalize non-pecuniary externalities, especially with regard to pressing environmental issues. This can easily be done by levying higher taxes on oil and gas, or creating fines to discourage other anti-environmental behavior. Meanwhile, the General Assembly can promote a healthier, and safer society by passing SB17-278.