

March 11, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 474 – Vehicles Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 474 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 474 would prohibit a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle that is not a plug-in electric drive vehicle in a parking space designated for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles. It would also establish standards for signage when designating reserved parking for plug-in electric drive vehicles.

All traffic control devices placed on public roadways must comply with specifications outlined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These standards provide a national set of traffic control device standards and guidance to ensure the consistency of traffic control devices, including signage and pavement markings across State lines. Senate Bill 474 prescribes the signage standards for these parking spots – namely that they be at least 18 inches high and 12 inches wide. As described in FHWA guidance, such standards for these signs are already established. While Senate Bill 474 goes on to state that all signage must meet any applicable State and Federal requirements, legislating specific sign dimensions may lead to outdated statute should those specifications change in the future.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 474.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Kahl
Deputy Director, Policy & Government Relations
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-545-0413

Jeff Tosi
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-841-2850