



**House Bill 913 -- *Motor Vehicles – Registration – Annual Surcharge*  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 22, 2024  
Oppose**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes HB0913 -- *Motor Vehicles – Registration – Annual Surcharge*.

House Bill 913 requires the owner of a motor vehicle to pay an annual surcharge of \$100 for each plug-in electric vehicle or fuel cell vehicle and \$75 for every other motor vehicle in addition to the annual registration fee.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is amenable to creating new revenue sources for the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). It is an economic imperative that the TTF is funded and able to meet the transportation needs of Maryland and fund vital projects around the State. In recent years, MCCC supported the legislature's efforts to increase the motor fuel tax.

However, MCCC does not support the annual surcharge proposed in House Bill 913. This bill creates an expensive and onerous new cost on motor vehicles, whether they are electric or gas powered, that is an administrative burden a very expensive for Maryland's drivers. The expense of owning a motor vehicle, especially for low- and middle-income drivers, would make transportation prohibitively expensive.

MCCC contends that making car ownership so expensive is anti-competitive and would stifle economic activity. MCCC acknowledges that to better and more effectively capitalize the TTF calls for difficult decisions that will ultimately may make driving more expensive, but Marylanders cannot afford the high costs proposed by House Bill 913.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 913 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

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