



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1556

DATE: March 13, 2025

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Oppose (Department of Environmental Protection)

Environment – Advanced Clean Cars II Program and Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation – Application and Enforcement

This legislation would prohibit the Department of the Environment (MDE) from enforcing requirements under the California Advanced Clean Cars II Program or the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation for the model years 2027 and 2028.

Electric vehicles (EVs) have an important role to play as we strive to achieve ambitious and important State and local climate goals. EV ownership is growing rapidly and the EV transition has gained momentum here in Montgomery County and throughout Maryland.

Section 177 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 provides states the option to adopt California's vehicle emissions standards in lieu of federal standards as long as the adopted state program is identical to the California program. Through the Maryland Clean Cars Act of 2007, the General Assembly established that Maryland would follow the California standards. The California Air Resources Board adopted the Advanced Clean Cars II regulations in 2022 requiring that increasing percentages of new passenger cars, light trucks and SUVs sold in California be zero-emission vehicles starting with model year 2026, and that internal combustion engine vehicles meet increasingly stringent pollution standards during the period in which they continue to be sold. Pursuant to the requirements of the Maryland Clean Cars Act of 2007, MDE adopted California's Advanced Clean Cars II regulations in 2023 to be applied starting with the 2027 model year.

This legislation would directly contradict established State law, undermine State and local efforts to date to grow customer EV adoption, and send a signal that Maryland is not serious about its existing climate commitments.

We respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 1556.