

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1428
Judiciary

(Delegate Miller)

Public Safety - Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission

This bill establishes the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission, the purpose of which is to develop policy recommendations to increase safety for vehicle owners and passengers and reduce violent crime and theft at electric vehicle charging stations. The commission must study and make recommendations related to its purpose, as specified. Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as specified. By December 31, 2025, and each December 31 thereafter, the commission must submit recommendations to the General Assembly. **The bill terminates December 31, 2034.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not establish any provisions related to staffing the commission, so it is unclear which State agency is responsible for doing so. Because the Governor is required to appoint the majority of the members, for purposes of this fiscal and policy note, it is assumed that the Governor's Office is responsible for ensuring that the commission meets its required duties. It is also assumed that State agencies represented on the commission can participate and assist using existing budgeted resources. Any expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances. It is assumed that local law enforcement agencies represented on the commission can participate using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission must study and make recommendations on methods of increasing safety for vehicle owners and passengers and reducing violent crime and theft at electric vehicle charging stations, including (1) improved lighting; (2) monitoring by security cameras; (3) smart phone applications aimed at reporting incidents to local law enforcement; (4) emergency blue lights; and (5) potential methods for the occupant of an electric vehicle to safely disconnect from a charging station without having to exit the vehicle.

Current Law:

Vehicle Theft Prevention Council: The purpose of the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council in the Department of State Police is to prevent and deter theft of private passenger and commercial motor vehicles and related crime in the State, including vandalism and theft of property from vehicles. The council has the following powers and duties: (1) to make grants from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund for motor vehicle theft intervention programs; (2) to solicit and accept money for deposit into the fund; (3) to establish or assist in the establishment of programs to reduce the incidence of vehicle theft and related crime; (4) to identify priorities for theft prevention strategies in the State and criteria for the council's evaluation of recipients of assistance from the council; and (5) to study and propose laws that will further prevent and deter vehicle theft and related crime. The fiscal 2025 budget as introduced includes approximately \$3.3 million in special funds for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council.

Community Health and Safety Works Program: The Community Health and Safety Works Program, administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provides grants for business districts or facility improvements to Main Street communities or other community development nonprofit organizations. Grants can be used for surveillance tools such as lighting and cameras; pedestrian and vehicle traffic management tools, such as landscaping, fencing, or expanding restaurant space to sidewalks and roadways; and other improvements that renovate and improve public spaces to remove signals of blight. In fiscal 2023, DHCD expanded the eligible uses of grants under the program to include crime and violence intervention and prevention, including social services and direct outreach. The program received \$10.0 million in federal funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in both fiscal 2022 and 2023 and \$10.0 million in general funds in fiscal 2024. The fiscal 2025 budget as introduced, however, does not include any funding for the program.

Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council: The Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC) is charged with formulating an action plan to successfully integrate electric vehicles into the State's transportation network. The

council was originally established in statute pursuant to Chapters 400 and 401 of 2011 and has since been extended, renamed, and given related but differing requirements. Chapter 118 of 2020 extended, from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2026, the termination date for ZEEVIC and established new interim and final reporting deadlines. The *Maryland Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure 2023 Annual Report* is available [here](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Municipal League; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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km/lgc

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