

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 480

(Delegate Barve)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces

This bill prohibits stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in a designated “plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space,” unless that vehicle is a plug-in electric drive vehicle that is plugged into charging equipment. The bill establishes requirements for signage for these designated vehicle charging spaces. A person who violates the bill’s provisions is subject to a civil penalty of \$100. A parking facility that is privately owned or owned by a local government may have a vehicle towed or removed if it is in violation of the bill’s restriction. Local governments may also ticket vehicles in violation of the bill. Any local law authorizing towing or removal from a facility owned by a local government must meet or exceed the standards set forth in the State towing laws.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues may increase minimally beginning in FY 2022, assuming existing prohibitions related to stopping, standing, and parking where prohibited by an official sign are not already used for this purpose. Expenditures (all funds) increase minimally for various State agencies to procure signs as required in FY 2022; thereafter, any such costs associated with new charging spaces can likely be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Local government revenues may increase minimally beginning in FY 2022, assuming existing prohibitions related to stopping, standing, and parking where prohibited by an official sign or a local parking ordinance are not already used for this purpose. Local government expenditures may increase minimally to procure signs, as needed, compliant with the bill. Otherwise, enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill defines “plug-in electric drive vehicle” as a motor vehicle (1) that is made by a manufacturer; (2) that is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that can be recharged from an external source of electricity; (3) for which the external source of electricity is unable to be connected to the motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is in motion; and (4) that is properly registered. A “plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space” is defined as a parking space that provides access to charging equipment that transfers electrical energy to a plug-in electric drive vehicle.

The bill requires a publicly accessible plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space to be designated by a sign that meets certain requirements if the charging space was funded, in whole or in part, by (1) any State funds, including funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund or (2) money collected from electric utility ratepayers. A sign designating a plug-in electric drive charging space must:

- indicate that the charging space is only for electric vehicle charging;
- include any day or time restrictions;
- state the maximum fine that may be incurred for a violation; and
- be consistent with current State Highway Administration design and placement specifications.

The bill also establishes that a plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space must be counted as part of the overall number of parking spaces in a parking lot for the purpose of complying with any zoning or parking laws intended to meet requirements for commercial and industrial uses under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Current Law: The Maryland Vehicle Law governs the stopping, standing, and parking of vehicles, with various restrictions applicable under certain circumstances or within certain jurisdictions. A local authority, in the reasonable exercise of its police power, may also regulate or prohibit the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles on highways within its jurisdiction. Generally, a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law is a misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to \$500. The amount of the prepaid fine for a violation of most provisions regulating stopping, standing, or parking is generally \$50, \$60, or \$70, depending on the specific violation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been considered in recent legislative sessions. HB 1587 of 2020 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 839 of 2016 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1020 of 2014 received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Garrett and Montgomery counties; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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