

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 1225 (Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo)
 Environment and Transportation

Weights and Measures - Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment - Registration Fees

This bill requires that the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) be used (1) for the purchase of equipment necessary to inspect a weight and measure used for the retail sale of electricity as a motor fuel and (2) to pay costs of inspection and testing of such weights and measures. In addition, the bill prohibits the per port fee for registering a weight and measure used for the retail sale of electricity as a motor fuel from exceeding the fee charged per meter for a retail motor fuel dispenser meter. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund (Weights and Measures Fund) revenues decrease annually – by \$325,000 in FY 2027, reaching \$585,000 in FY 2031. There is no net effect on State expenditures, as discussed below.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
SF Revenue	(\$325,000)	(\$390,000)	(\$455,000)	(\$520,000)	(\$585,000)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$325,000)	(\$390,000)	(\$455,000)	(\$520,000)	(\$585,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Weights and Measures Program

In General

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Weights and Measures Program, on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture and pursuant to Title 11 of the Agriculture Article, inspects and certifies the accuracy of weights and measures in the State to ensure the fairness and equity of all commercial transactions involving determination of quantity.

Generally, unless registered with the Secretary, a weight and measure may not be used or possessed for current use for (1) buying or selling any commodity or object; (2) hire or award; (3) computing any charge or payment for services rendered on the basis of weight and measurement; or (4) determining any weight and measure for a charge. A registration must be renewed annually and registration/renewal fees (established by regulation, varying by type of weight and measure) must be paid.

The Secretary must inspect and test every weight and measure commercially used in determining (1) the weight, measurement, or count of any commodity sold, or offered or exposed for sale, on the basis of weight, measure, or count; (2) any charge or payment for services rendered on the basis of weight, measure, or count; and (3) weight, measurement, or count when a charge is made for the determination. The specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for commercial weighing and measuring devices must be those adopted by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and included in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44, as amended.

Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Fee

Chapter 604 of 2025 (the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025) repealed weight and measure registration fees set in statute and authorized the Secretary to set reasonable fees for registering each weight and measure used for commercial purposes. As a result, MDA adopted weights and measures registration fees by regulation in September 2025, including a \$150 per port registration fee for Electrical Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE) (a weight and measure used for the retail sale of electricity as a motor fuel). The NIST Handbook 44 contains weight and measure standards for EVSE, but the Weights and Measures Program had not previously registered, inspected, or tested EVSE, and the establishment of a registration fee represented an initial step toward doing so. The current deadline to register EVSE and pay the newly established fee is July 1, 2026, when MDA expects to begin inspection and testing.

The registration fee for a retail motor fuel dispenser meter of under 20 gallons per minute is \$20 for each meter plus \$75 per business location.

Fee revenue is credited to the Weights and Measures Fund, which is used to defray the expenses associated with the program.

Strategic Energy Investment Fund

SEIF is administered by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and primarily receives funds from the sale of carbon dioxide emissions allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and alternative compliance payment revenues through the State's renewable energy portfolio standard. Additionally, SEIF will receive a portion of corporate income tax revenues from qualified data centers that are operational on or after January 1, 2026.

MEA is required to use SEIF for various specified uses, including investing in the promotion, development, and implementation of (1) cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation programs, projects, or activities; (2) renewable and clean energy resources; (3) climate change programs directly related to reducing or mitigating the effects of climate change; and (4) demand response programs that are designed to promote changes in electric usage by customers. SEIF must also be used to provide targeted programs, projects, activities, and investments to reduce electricity consumption by customers in low-income and moderate-income residential sectors, and to provide supplemental funds for low-income energy assistance administered by the Department of Human Services.

State Fiscal Effect: Special fund (Weights and Measures Fund) revenues decrease annually – by \$325,000 in fiscal 2027, reaching \$585,000 in fiscal 2031 as shown in **Exhibit 1**. There is no net effect on State expenditures.

This estimate is based on the following information and assumptions:

- *Fee Amounts* – The estimate assumes that (1) in the absence of the bill, the per port registration fee for EVSE remains \$150, the amount in current MDA regulations, and (2) under the bill, the per port registration fee for EVSE is \$20, equal to the fee charged per meter for a retail motor fuel dispenser meter.
- *Number of Ports Subject to the Fee* – The estimate assumes that (1) there are 2,500 commercial EVSE ports in the State (based on MDA's best estimate of the potential current numbers of commercial EVSE ports in the State) that are subject to the registration fee in fiscal 2027 and (2) the number of ports subject to the fee grows by 500 each fiscal year.

- *No Net Effect on Expenditures* – There is no net effect on expenditures because the bill does not increase expenditures but instead only establishes a funding source (SEIF) for existing expenditures (expenditures that would occur even in the absence of the bill, under current law) (1) for the purchase of equipment needed to inspect commercial EVSE and (2) to pay costs associated with the inspection and testing of EVSE. This analysis assumes that the decrease in Weights and Measures Fund revenues caused by the bill results in an equivalent decrease in Weights and Measures Fund expenditures for EVSE inspections and testing, which are replaced by SEIF expenditures.

MDA and MEA indicate that they currently have a memorandum of understanding – established under MEA’s current statutory authority for the use of SEIF funding – under which SEIF covers initial equipment costs for the EVSE inspections (expected to be incurred in fiscal 2026), as well as certain initial staff costs. MDA and MEA have indicated that they may also establish a longer-term agreement for SEIF funding to be used to cover a portion of ongoing operating costs of EVSE inspections to allow for MDA to reduce the per port registration fee for EVSE set in MDA regulations. A reduction in the per port EVSE registration fee, and corresponding revenues from the fee, may, therefore, occur even in the absence of the bill. This analysis, however, is based on MDA regulations as they are now, containing the \$150 per port fee.

Exhibit 1
Reduced Special Fund Revenues Under the Bill

	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>	<u>FY 2030</u>	<u>FY 2031</u>
Assumed No. of EVSE ports subject to the registration fee (growth of 500/year)	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,500
Fee revenue under current law/regulations (\$150 per port)	\$375,000	\$450,000	\$525,000	\$600,000	\$675,000
Fee revenue under the bill (\$20 per port)	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	90,000
Reduction in special fund (Weights and Measures Fund) revenues under the bill	(\$325,000)	(\$390,000)	(\$455,000)	(\$520,000)	(\$585,000)

EVSE: Electric Vehicle Service Equipment

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Energy Administration; Department of Legislative Services

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