HB 451

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 451 (Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation Education, Energy, and the Environment

Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Membership, Duties, and Sunset Repeal

This bill repeals the termination date for the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC), thereby establishing the council as a permanent entity. The bill also alters the membership and duties of ZEEVIC and makes permanent an annual reporting requirement. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Reporting and staffing requirements related to ZEEVIC can continue to be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill replaces ZEEVIC's current duties by requiring the council to do the following:

- identify barriers and challenges to the integration of zero emission electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the State's transportation network;
- identify, develop, and recommend policies and best-practice initiatives for the integration of zero emission electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the State's transportation network, including in residential and commercial areas and buildings;

- convene State and local agencies and officials and other interested stakeholders to assist with the alignment and coordination of policies and best-practice initiatives for the integration of zero emission electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the State's transportation network;
- establish performance measures for meeting zero emission electric vehicle-related use, infrastructure, and regulatory goals;
- develop targeted policies to support fleet purchases of zero emission electric vehicles; and
- develop charging solutions for existing and future multidwelling units.

ZEEVIC must also continue to pursue other goals and objectives that promote the *use* of zero emission electric vehicles in the State.

The bill establishes a permanent annual reporting deadline of December 1 for ZEEVIC (beginning December 1, 2026).

Current Law: ZEEVIC was initially established, through uncodified language, by Chapters 400 and 401 of 2011 as the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC) with a two-year duration. EVIC was required to develop a plan to expand the adoption of electric vehicles and develop an infrastructure charging network. In its (then) final report issued in December 2012, the council made several recommendations, including (1) extending EVIC through June 2015; (2) increasing the amount of zero emission State fleet vehicle purchases to 10% by 2020 and at least 25% by 2025; (3) establishing a grant program for electric vehicle support equipment installation and procurement of transaction management software for multiunit dwellings; and (4) extending the recharging equipment tax credit through December 2016, and the qualified electric vehicle excise tax credit to July 1, 2016. Consistent with those recommendations, Chapters 64 and 65 of 2013 extended EVIC through June 2015.

Since then, EVIC has been extended multiple times, with more reporting, membership changes, and a shift in focus. Specifically, Chapter 378 of 2015 extended EVIC for another five years to June 30, 2020, and shifted the reporting deadline to December 1 of each year, with a final report due June 30, 2020. Four years later, Chapter 213 of 2019 changed the name of the council to be ZEEVIC, expanded membership of the council, altered its responsibilities to focus more generally on zero emission vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles, and required an additional interim report (on December 1, 2019). Even so, Chapter 213 did not extend the termination date of the council. Nevertheless, ZEEVIC received a six-year extension (from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2026) by Chapter 118 of 2020, which also established six more interim reporting due dates (every December 1, from 2020 through 2025). Likewise, the final report was shifted to be June 30, 2026, concurrent with ZEEVIC's new termination date. Chapter 118 also further

altered membership of ZEEVIC by adding one more member (a second representative of the environmental community) and slightly altering affiliations for three existing members, including eliminating the representative of the retail electric supplier community and adding a third representative of electric companies instead.

Chapter 607 of 2021, which altered the duties of the Office of People's Counsel, further modified membership of ZEEVIC – to include the People's Counsel or designee – but did not change reporting requirements or the duration of the council. However, Chapter 607 inadvertently omitted the uncodified changes that had been made to membership and reporting under Chapter 118.

Chapter 447 of 2024 codified ZEEVIC, added members, and otherwise generally clarified membership and reporting dates. ZEEVIC's most recent report can be found on its website.

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 Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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