

March 11, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2E  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Opposition of Senate Bill 474 (Vehicle Laws - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces)**

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 474 (Vehicle Laws - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces).

The bill prohibits an individual from stopping, standing, or parking their vehicle in a space that provides access to a plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space, unless that vehicle is a plug-in electric drive vehicle. The bill establishes requirements for signage and pavement markings for such vehicle charging spaces. It sets a \$50 civil fine, and it authorizes a parking facility that is privately owned or owned by a local government to 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 trespass towing laws.

While we appreciate the intent of encouraging the use of electric vehicles and ensuring that their drivers have consistently available parking spaces, this bill requires significant clarification. First, assuming this would apply to both public and private property, there is a question of how law enforcement will be able to police this on private property. Also, in the case of a multifamily residential parking structure, parking spaces are often assigned to residential units; it is not clear whether this bill would apply to those parking facilities. Finally, if these requirements apply to a domicile, these protected space should count towards the total number of parking spaces required for new residential construction. If this measure is only intended to apply to publicly accessible parking spaces, that should be clarified in the bill.

Without more information and clarification, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members