



February 14, 2022

BILL: SB0126
TITLE: Environment-New Motor Vehicles – Pollution Fee
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: February 15, 2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

The health effects of air pollution are huge. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia. “Air pollution threatens us all, but the poorest and most marginalized people bear the brunt of the burden,” says Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.

African American children had significantly higher rates of emergency department visits than other children. According to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene African American children (ages 0-17) had the highest prevalence rates for asthma in Maryland than white children of the same age. They were “about 1.5 times more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lifetime compared to White, non-Hispanic children”. Asthma attacks can be triggered by air pollution and Asthma can be life threatening. It’s time for Maryland to take action now to reduce pollution in our air and protect the health of all the citizens of our State.

We all have a role to play in reducing pollutants in our air. We can start by passing House Bill SB0126 - the **Environment-New Motor Vehicles – Pollution Fee** as a step towards a carbon free environment. Climate XChange Maryland supports this legislation because it would charge a one-time registration fee on each new motor vehicles sold or registered in the State with a carbon dioxide tailpipe emissions level equal to or higher than 400 grams per mile. This policy will help reduce the number of “high polluting vehicles,” on our roads and reduce the negative effects of greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions level in our communities. Drivers who choose to purchase new high polluting vehicles will be required to pay for the harmful impact these vehicles have on our environment and our resident’s health.

The revenue generated from this fee will be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to go towards electric vehicle incentives in the State.

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange Maryland urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0126.

Respectfully submitted,

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