

HB157 - Vehicle Laws - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces

Position: Favorable With Amendments

Witness: Lanny Hartmann

January 25, 2022

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Committee,

HB157 would penalize an electric vehicle that is not "plugged into charging equipment" the same as it penalizes a gas car that blocks a charging station.

My concern is that the enforcement authority cannot know for certain that the electric vehicle was never originally plugged in. The driver may have intended to charge but because of broken equipment, vandalism, or another EV driver stealing the plug, they suddenly are no longer "plugged into charging equipment" and thus vulnerable to a violation.

My wife drives an electric car. She has had people unplug her car while it was charging in a parking garage in Baltimore City. The most recent time, it appeared that the person had also tried to enter the car.

EV drivers should not fear being penalized if their car gets disconnected through no fault of their own.

Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore, and Frederick Counties have "anti-ICEing" ordinances. All four County Councils deliberately chose to focus on simple language to prohibit gasoline vehicles from charging spaces.

Florida, Illinois, Arizona, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts all prohibit gasoline vehicles from occupying designated charging spaces. None of their laws say that electric vehicles have to be actively charging or connected to the equipment. Legislation pending in Virginia does not have language that would penalize vehicles that are not connected to charging equipment. That bill has passed the VA Senate.

I suggest the following change to section (B) that will align this bill with other states in the region and the four Maryland Counties with existing legislation.

~~(B) UNLESS THE VEHICLE IS A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE THAT IS PLUGGED INTO CHARGING EQUIPMENT, A PERSON MAY NOT STOP, STAND, OR PARK A VEHICLE IN A DESIGNATED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE CHARGING SPACE~~

Respectfully,



Lanny Hartmann