

SB 146 Electric Vehicle Reserved Parking - Unfavorable

Lanny Hartmann
Jan 18, 2022

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I am an electric vehicle driver in Columbia, MD. I helped draft local ordinances in Montgomery and Howard Counties intended to regulate parking at EV charging stations. Those bills were enacted in 2014.

We have learned many lessons in the seven years since. These measures, while well-meaning, have turned out to be challenging in practice. In some some instances, they can be counter productive.

Similar legislation has come before the General Assembly nearly every year since 2012. All 13 previous bills have failed.

Please be aware of the limitations of this bill. There are existing alternatives to achieving the same goal.

SB 146 will likely never apply at many electric vehicle charging spots throughout Maryland

The bill requires official signs that meet applicable state and federal requirements for parking signs. Many companies use signs with their logo for consistent branding throughout the country. This includes in California and the other states that have existing laws with signage requirements similar to SB 146.



Also, many of the signs state “30 Minute General Parking” to allow gas vehicles to park briefly in the charging spaces in order to accommodate busy peak periods at the host site such as a Sheetz or Wawa.



Use existing parking ordinances

The city of Hyattsville, MD has been successfully employing their existing “failure to obey a sign” ordinance to control parking at EV charging stations on Town property. This gives the town flexibility to set restrictions such as time limits to match each charging situation. They can also change the wording on the signs much easier than amending the town Code as needs evolve.

\$500 fines may trigger backlash

The penalty proposed in SB 147 is equal to the penalty issued in a local jurisdiction for parking in a space reserved for people with disabilities. This can be as much as \$500 in some places. I fear that this may evoke resentment that some may unfairly take out upon electric vehicle drivers.

Signs before fines

Effective signs are the most important thing to discourage misuse of EV charging spaces. With good signs additional legislation is not needed.

I respectfully ask the Committee to report **Unfavorable** on SB 146.

Regards,

Lanny Hartmann