



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 224

DATE: February 8, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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POSITION: FAVORABLE

Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles - Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)

Senate Bill 224 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to adopt new regulations by December 1, 2023 establishing requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the state. The bill instructs MDE to reference standards adopted by the State of California in 2020, as has already been done in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington. Those standards would require all manufacturers that sell medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the state to sell an increasing annual percentage of those as zero-emission vehicles.

The combustion of fossil fuels in medium- and heavy-duty vehicles results in significant greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollution, which is often concentrated in overburdened communities where it contributes to undesirable health outcomes. Technological innovation now allows manufacturers to offer zero-emission models of these vehicles. More than 70 models of zero-emission vans, trucks and buses are already commercially available from several manufacturers, and more are forthcoming.¹

This bill aligns with a recent recommendation of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change.² It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollution in Maryland, improving public health. The bill will also support the County's efforts to transition our own fleet to zero-emission vehicles by encouraging vehicle manufacturers to offer more options at potentially lower prices.

Montgomery County respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 224.

¹ California Air Resources Board, "Advanced Clean Trucks Fact Sheet," <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/fact-sheets/advanced-clean-trucks-fact-sheet>.

² Maryland Commission on Climate Change, "2022 Annual Report," Page 11, <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Pages/index.aspx>.