

BILL: **House Bill 437** - Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Membership

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation

DATE: February 8, 2024

POSITION: Support

House Bill 437 expands the membership of the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council. This council is composed of a variety of stakeholders to facilitate the successful integration of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) into the State’s transportation framework. Among its duties, the council is also responsible for developing a recommendation for a statewide electric vehicle (EV) charging and hydrogen refueling infrastructure plan, including placement opportunities for public charging and hydrogen refueling stations. A representative of a heavy-duty plug-in electric drive vehicle manufacturer is added to the council. The sponsor has agreed to add DGS as a member of the Council.

DGS is invested in EV infrastructure through the responsibilities given to the agency per Chapter 38, Maryland Laws 2022 (Senate Bill 528, Climate Solutions Now Act). State Finance & Procurement §14-418 states “The Department of General Services shall ensure the development of charging infrastructure to support the operation of Zero-Emission Vehicles in the state vehicle fleet” and further requires the submission of an annual report on the state vehicle fleet, zero-emission vehicles purchased by the state, savings associated with the purchase and operation of zero-emission vehicles and an evaluation of the existing charging infrastructure.

To date, DGS has installed 174 charging ports at 31 sites throughout the state with another 275 charging ports in production (75 in construction, 70 in procurement, and 130 in design). This is an ongoing process to expand EV infrastructure as the state fleet continues to transition to EVs. As a member of the Council DGS will provide current and upcoming information on the state’s progress for the installation of EV charging stations. DGS will provide the Council with EV infrastructure data as the charging infrastructure advances thus assisting to efficiently develop EV infrastructure in the state.

For these reasons, DGS urges a favorable report for House Bill 437. For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908, ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov or Lisa Nissley at 410-260-2922 or Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov.