



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 26, 2025

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill: HB 1039 - Department of Agriculture - Public Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment - Registration, Regulation, and Oversight

Position: Unfavorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) opposes House Bill 1039. The bill mandates that the owner of public electric vehicle supply equipment register that equipment with the State annually, subject to a fee, and comply with reliability and reporting requirements for its equipment. Many municipalities would qualify as an owner under the bill and be subject to its provisions.

Throughout the State, electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment is being installed as demand for EV cars continues to grow. As such, many municipalities have determined that their residents and businesses would benefit from publicly owned charging facilities. Municipal governments understand the value of recording the equipment with the State to better understand where there may be gaps in the EV charging landscape.

However, the bill requires annual registration with a fee associated with it. While the individual registration fee may, or not, be nominal, if a municipality needs to register several pieces of equipment the fees start to add up. In addition, reliability and reporting standards that will be established under this bill may result in additional costs incurred by the local government to meet the standards and comply with the reporting, especially if they fall out of compliance and incur a civil penalty.

In a time of tight budgets at the local level, this is an additional cost burden placed on local governments that are helping to expand the scope of EV chargers in the State. Feedback from some municipalities that currently do not have public electric vehicle supply equipment is that the process in the bill may keep them from moving forward with installing such devices.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1039. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.