

LINDA FOLEY  
Legislative District 15  
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 220  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3052 · 301-858-3052  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3052  
Linda.Foley@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony:** HB1176: Motor Vehicles - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles in HOV Lane - Termination Date

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2025

**Position:** Favorable

Thank you, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to introduce HB1176: Motor Vehicles - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles in HOV Lane - Termination Date. For the record, I am Delegate Linda Foley of District 15.

This bill's intent is to extend the termination date of a provision that authorizes certain plug-in electric drive vehicles to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicles. Currently, this special privilege for these vehicles is set to expire on September 30, 2025. This bill would extend that expiration date to September 30, 2030, giving electric vehicle owners an additional 5 years to use the HOV lanes without meeting the normal occupancy requirements. It also enables the fee for this permit to be up to \$20.

The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration to report annually on the effects of this policy on HOV lane operations.

This policy has been an important incentive to encourage the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in our state. By allowing these vehicle owners to use the HOV lanes, it makes these types of vehicles more attractive and accessible to a wider range of drivers. This helps us achieve our goals of reducing emissions, improving air quality, and transitioning to a more sustainable transportation system.

I am working with MDOT on an amendment to tie this piece of legislation to federal law, which currently enables this exemption to occur. This amendment is important, because federal law is what enables various types of vehicles to use HOV lanes, including the exemption for these types of vehicles to use the lane without meeting minimum passenger requirements. If the federal exemption were to end and our state had this program in place, we could risk losing some federal funding for highways. Of course, we don't want that to happen which is why this amendment is needed.

Extending this incentive program is a common-sense way to continue supporting the transition to cleaner vehicles while carefully managing our HOV lane usage. I urge a favorable report on HB1176 and help drive Maryland's clean transportation future forward. Thank you.

**Additional information on current total permits in this category:**

<b>Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)</b>	
<b>Counts as of September, 2024</b>	
<b>Number of Registered Plug-In Vehicles with HOV Permit</b>	
Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV)	9,975
Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	520
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,495</b>

Source: MVA Office of Data Management/MVA Customer Connect