



SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committees: Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on: HB 1225- Weights and Measures - Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment -
Registration Fees**

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on HB 1225. This bill would require that funding for the equipment necessary to inspect electric vehicle charging ports be provided by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF). It would also require that the fee for registering ports at charging stations not exceed the inspection fees for gas pumps which is currently \$20 per device and \$75 per location.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture issued a regulation in late 2025 that required operators of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) to pay a \$150 per port fee to cover the costs of an inspection program that assesses the metering accuracy of EV charging stations. The Department is requiring operators to register by July 1, 2026. The Department of Legislative services estimated that the revenue generated from these fees would be \$585,000.

This bill would provide revenue to the Department to help cover the implementation of this program, and therefore defray the costs on charging operators. While we appreciate the intent of the program to help address metering accuracy, we believe the fee would be a burden for many charging operators. It would impact local governments, multifamily communities, workplaces, small businesses, and other entities that operate level 2 chargers that are open to the public. These entities often receive little to no revenue from these stations and could face thousands of dollars in fees in order to continue operating these stations or bring future stations online. These fees are also significantly higher than the handful of states that have implemented them. The closest states to Maryland that charge this fee, including Vermont and Connecticut, only charge \$25 per connector plug or \$50 per station, respectively. Additionally, we encourage the committee to consider changes to the Department's inspection program that prioritize and identify actions that are specifically targeted to the reliability of charging stations rather than just focusing on metering accuracy. Reliability of charging stations is one of the top issues hindering EV adoption, whereas metering accuracy is uncommon.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

These inspection fees are being implemented at a time when the federal EV tax credit has expired and when EV drivers are already paying additional vehicle registration fees to the state. The Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks Working Group, which was created by Governor Moore's Executive Order, recently voted to include a recommendation on incentivizing and expanding equitable community and multifamily-dwelling charging investments. Reducing this fee, by providing funding from the SEIF, would help support this recommendation by reducing a barrier for these communities to bring these chargers online. We also believe use of the SEIF in this manner would be consistent with the intent of the fund.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on HB 1225.

Lindsey Mendelson
Senior Transportation Campaign
Representative
lindsey.mendelson@mdsierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org