

Chapter 679

(House Bill 714)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive and Hybrid Vehicles

FOR the purpose of extending the termination date for certain provisions of law authorizing certain hybrid vehicles to use a certain high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane regardless of the number of passengers under certain circumstances; extending the termination date for certain provisions of law making certain requirements regarding the use of HOV lanes by plug-in electric drive vehicles applicable to qualified hybrid vehicles; extending the termination date for the exemption allowing the use of HOV lanes by plug-in electric drive vehicles; and generally relating to the use of HOV lanes by plug-in electric drive and hybrid vehicles.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 25–108
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 491 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, as amended by Chapters
64 and 65 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013 and Chapter 734 of the
Acts of the General Assembly of 2016
Section 2

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 492 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, as amended by Chapters
64 and 65 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013 and Chapter 734 of the
Acts of the General Assembly of 2016
Section 2

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 734 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016
Section 4

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

25–108.

(a) In this section, “HOV lane” means a high occupancy vehicle lane, the use of

which is restricted by a traffic control device during specified times to vehicles carrying at least a specified number of occupants.

(b) This section applies only to:

(1) A plug-in electric drive vehicle that has a maximum speed capability of at least 65 miles per hour; and

(2) A qualified hybrid vehicle as defined in § 23-202(b)(3) of this article.

(c) (1) Whenever the State Highway Administration designates a portion of a highway as an HOV lane, the HOV lane may be used at all times by plug-in electric drive vehicles that have obtained a permit from the Administration under this section, regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

(2) For the portion of U.S. Route 50 designated as an HOV lane, between Interstate 95/Interstate 495 and U.S. Route 301, the HOV lane may be used at all times by qualified hybrid vehicles that have obtained a permit from the Administration under this section, regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

(d) (1) The Administration, the State Highway Administration, and the Department of State Police shall consult to design a permit to designate a vehicle as a plug-in electric drive vehicle or a qualified hybrid vehicle authorized to use an HOV lane.

(2) The Administration may charge a fee, not to exceed \$20, for issuing a permit under this section.

(3) The Administration, on the recommendation of the State Highway Administration, may limit the number of permits issued to ensure HOV lane operations are not degraded to an unacceptable level.

(e) On or before January 1 of each year, the Administration and the State Highway Administration jointly shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the effect of the use of the plug-in electric drive vehicle and qualified hybrid vehicle permits issued under this section on the operation of HOV lanes in the State.

Chapter 491 of the Acts of 2010, as amended by Chapters 64 and 65 of the Acts of 2013 and Chapter 734 of the Acts of 2016

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of [8] 12 years and, at the end of September 30, [2018] 2022, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Chapter 492 of the Acts of 2010, as amended by Chapters 64 and 65 of the Acts of

2013 and Chapter 734 of the Acts of 2016

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of [8] **12** years and, at the end of September 30, [2018] **2022**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Chapter 734 of the Acts of 2016

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of [2] **6** years and, at the end of September 30, [2018] **2022**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.