



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 232

Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Reporting, Membership,
and Sunset Extension

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) recommends a FAVORABLE report on HB 232 from the House Environment and Transportation Committee. This legislation will modernize Maryland's Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council membership to better represent the environmental community, set interim reporting deadlines, and allow the Council to continue its work through 2026.

COMMENTS

One of the many responsibilities of Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council is facilitating the successful integration of electric vehicles into the State's transportation network. HB232 will allow the Council to continue its work to help build the market needed to achieve the its zero emission electric vehicle goals.

The bill will extend the Council from its current sunset in 2020 until 2026 and require annual interim reports to maintain progress. The bill adds representation from the environmental community, emphasizing the importance of zero emission electric vehicles in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions threaten the Chesapeake Bay through climate change and its effects. Warmer waters exacerbate the Bay's dead zones, stressing fish including the Bay's iconic striped bass. The US Environmental Protection Agency predicts that a three-degree overall air temperature increase may increase the heat-related human death toll. Storm surges combined with higher sea levels and increasingly erratic storm activity may flood thousands of low-lying areas in Maryland, many of which are occupied by economically disadvantaged residents.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommends a FAVORABLE report on HB 232 from the House Environment and Transportation Committee. Please contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, REilenberg@cbf.org, 443.995.8753 for more information.

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