



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Members, House Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB0123 - Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles
DATE: February 2, 2023

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

House Bill 123 would reinstate a program through which certain plug-in electric drive vehicles (PEVs) would be permitted to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes within the State.

This program is a low-cost, or even revenue- neutral incentive for the purchase and use of a PEV. By allowing certain qualified vehicles and their drivers to utilize HOV lanes, Maryland will help promote the use of PEVs, and help us collectively achieve our goals for zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption.

MEA is supporting sponsor amendments developed in coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles (MDOT) that alter the sunset date, give MDOT flexibility in designing the PEV HOV permit, and extend the program to certain vehicles purchased in the State.

MEA commends the sponsor for working so closely with State Agencies on the development of this legislation. For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report as amended**.