

House Bill 123 Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports House Bill 123 – *Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles*. House Bill 123 authorizes plug-in electric drive vehicles to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicles. This will incentivize the use of electric vehicles which will lead to more electric vehicles on Maryland roads, effectively expanding the use of zero emission vehicles in the state, which will be essential to achieving Maryland’s climate and air quality goals.

Specifically, the bill would direct the state to establish a permit system available to plug-in electric vehicles at a maximum cost of \$20. A plug-in electric vehicle with such a permit would be eligible to always use an HOV lane regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

Maryland has adopted a goal of 300,000 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025, with approximately 125,000 in BGE’s service territory. State incentives like HOV access will only help the state meet its ambitious goal.

BGE is committed to helping Maryland achieve its electric vehicle goals. Accordingly, we support this legislation and recommend an expansion of the incentive to include vehicles purchased in Maryland and titled and registered in a neighboring jurisdiction if the owner of the vehicle has a primary work location in Maryland. This proposed expansion will:

- help to encourage the many drivers that cross into Maryland for work purposes to invest in emissions free vehicles;
- improve the cost-benefit of installing electric vehicle charging stations in Maryland and encourage additional capital investment in charging infrastructure; and
- support Maryland’s auto industry. District of Columbia drivers do not have the option to purchase vehicles in the District of Columbia due to a lack of automobile dealerships and generally purchase in Virginia or Maryland. The amendment will incentivize District of Columbia residents to purchase electric vehicles in Maryland.

BGE respectfully requests adoption of the following amendment and a favorable report.

On page 2, after line 20, insert:

(F) A plug-in electric vehicle that is titled and registered in a neighboring jurisdiction is eligible for a permit under this section, provided that:

- i) the vehicle is purchased in the State of Maryland, and
- ii) the vehicle is registered to an individual whose principal workplace is in the State of Maryland.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland’s largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company’s approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation’s leading competitive energy provider.