



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 123

DATE: March 22, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

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

Electric vehicles (EVs) powered by a clean, renewable energy grid will play a critical role in achieving our state and local climate goals. EVs can also reduce local air pollution and improve public health. It is in our shared interest to accelerate a statewide transition to EVs.

This bill will help to encourage EV adoption by reinstating a program allowing EV drivers to utilize high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of vehicle occupancy numbers. This temporary, low-cost program is a reasonable approach to accelerate market adoption at this stage when EV purchases represent a small percentage of vehicle sales.

The bill includes appropriate annual reporting requirements that will allow the Administration to limit the number of permits issued to ensure HOV lane operations are not degraded to an unacceptable level.

We respectfully request that the Judicial Proceedings Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 123.