



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** HB 0028 Passenger, Tuck, and Multipurpose Vehicles – Annual Registration Fees

**Position:** SUPPORT

**Date:** February 1, 2024

**Contact:** Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) has not voted on an official position yet, however, staff has prepared a statement and recommends a favorable vote in support of this bill. The Commission respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee consider this information and include it in the record.

**What this Bill Does.** This bill increases annual vehicle registration fees for passenger, certain truck, and multipurpose vehicles based on certain vehicle weight classifications.

**Improve Transportation Safety.** Vehicular mass is a significant factor in the severity of motor vehicle crashes. Heavier vehicles are more likely to severely injure or kill people walking in the event of a crash. This legislation provides a disincentive for the purchase and ownership of heavier vehicles and therefore will improve public safety.

**Reduce Roadway Maintenance Costs.** Heavier vehicles inflict more damage to the state’s roadways than lighter vehicles. By scaling vehicle registration fees to vehicle weight, this legislation helps ensure that owners of heavy vehicles pay for their impacts to the roadway system.

**Implements Montgomery County’s Pedestrian Master Plan.** The county’s 2023 Pedestrian Master Plan recommends the state consider potential legislation to tie vehicle registration fees to safe vehicle design (Key Action F-1c) due to the relationship between vehicle design and pedestrian safety.

For these reasons, the Commission requests an affirmative vote in support of HB0028.