

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Prepare Maine for a Low-carbon Transportation Future

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§22-B is enacted to read:

22-B. Electric vehicle. "Electric vehicle" means a fully electric vehicle that has an on-board electrical energy storage device that is designed to be recharged using an external energy source or a vehicle that is designed to operate using electricity produced from compressed hydrogen fuel.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRS §501, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Electric vehicle registration surcharge. In addition to the payment of other applicable registration fees under this section, and except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall by rule adopted in accordance with this subsection require payment of an annual electric vehicle registration surcharge by the owner of an electric vehicle.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, the annual electric vehicle registration surcharge under this subsection must be \$25, except that the Secretary of State may not require payment of a surcharge under this subsection until the Secretary of State determines that at least 3,000 electric vehicles are annually registered pursuant to this chapter.

B. The annual electric vehicle registration surcharge under this subsection must be increased to \$50 upon a determination by the Secretary of State that at least 10,000 electric vehicles are annually registered pursuant to this chapter.

C. Notwithstanding section 409 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the rules adopted under this subsection must provide that the surcharges collected pursuant to this subsection must be retained by the municipality that collects the surcharges. No less than 50% of the annual surcharges collected by a municipality pursuant to this subsection must be used by the municipality to construct or modify public infrastructure that facilitates the charging of electric vehicles for use by the general public or for other purposes that encourage or support the purchase and use by the general public of electric vehicles.

Sec. 3. Electric vehicle task force; report. In accordance with the provisions of this section, the Director of the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this section as "the director," in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Commissioner of Transportation, shall convene an electric vehicle task force, referred to in this section as "the task force."

1. The director shall invite, at a minimum, representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Transportation, environmental and energy efficiency advocacy groups and other interested parties to participate on the task force.

2. The task force shall, at a minimum, examine and make recommendations regarding the following matters:

A. Proposals for increasing the use of electric vehicles by residents of the State, for both personal and commercial use;

B. Proposals for the construction of the electric vehicle infrastructure necessary to support increased use of electric vehicles statewide, including, but not limited to, the construction of electric vehicle charging stations along primary travel corridors;

C. Development of 5-year and 10-year electric vehicle action plans based upon the electric-vehicle-related goals identified by the task force under paragraphs A and B; and

D. Proposals regarding the use of funds distributed or to be distributed to the State pursuant to the Volkswagen Partial Consent Decree to support the electric-vehicle-related goals identified by the task force under paragraphs A and B.

3. No later than February 15, 2020, the director shall submit a report regarding the findings and recommendations of the task force, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. After reviewing the report, the committees are authorized to report out legislation relating to the findings and recommendations in the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Sec. 4. Department of Transportation; long-term planning; report. The Commissioner of Transportation shall:

1. Review short-term and long-term planning and infrastructure investments of the Department of Transportation to develop strategies and recommendations to address reasonably expected effects of climate change, such as temperature changes, sea level rise, increased rainfall and increased water flows; to address increasing numbers of electric vehicles, both personal and commercial; and to address increasing use of ride-sharing and vehicle-sharing services and autonomous vehicles;

2. Analyze and propose benchmarks for ensuring that an adequate proportion of Highway Fund revenue in the future is attributable to sources other than the gasoline tax;

3. Initiate at least 2 pilot programs to explore and test alternative structures for road usage fees, at least one of which must be designed to test a road usage fee based on vehicle miles traveled; and

4. In consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Governor's Energy Office and other stakeholders as determined by the commissioner, assess the long-term potential for assessing fees on electricity and on public electric vehicle charging to raise additional Highway Fund revenue.

On or before February 15, 2021, the Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report regarding any findings and recommendations of the Department of Transportation following completion of the actions required under this section to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters and transportation matters. The report must include any proposed legislation necessary to implement the recommendations in the report. After reviewing the report, the committees are authorized to report out legislation to implement the findings and recommendations in the report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to require the owner of an electric vehicle to pay an electric vehicle registration surcharge of \$25 per year when at least 3,000 electric vehicles are annually registered in the State. The amount of the surcharge increases to \$50 per year when at least 10,000 electric vehicles are annually registered in the State. The municipality that collects the annual electric vehicle registration surcharge is required to expend no less than 50% of the surcharge to construct or modify public infrastructure that facilitates the charging of electric vehicles for use by the general public or for other purposes that encourage or support the purchase and use by the general public of electric vehicles.

The bill also directs the Governor's Energy Office to convene an electric vehicle task force, which is charged with reviewing a number of matters relating to electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure. The director of the office is required to report by February 15, 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation regarding any recommendations of the task force, including proposed legislation. After reviewing the report, the committees may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

The bill also directs the Commissioner of Transportation to take a number of actions regarding short-term and long-term planning for road infrastructure and highway funding, including a review of potential new vehicle or road use fees. The commissioner is directed to report by February 15, 2021 to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters and transportation matters regarding those actions and including any findings and recommendations and proposed legislation necessary to implement those recommendations. After reviewing the report, the committees may report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.