



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Catherine Curtis
Deputy Secretary of State

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

L.D. 622 “An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration.”

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State and
Cathie Curtis, Deputy Secretary for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,
Department of the Secretary of State

April 30, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am providing testimony neither for nor against to L.D. 622 “An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration.”

This bill adds a definition of an electric vehicle. An “electric vehicle” means a fully electric vehicle that has an onboard 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.

The bill requires the owner of an electric vehicle to pay an electric vehicle registration surcharge of \$250 per year and would be collected in 2 biannual payments. The money collected from the surcharge must be transmitted to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Highway Fund. It’s important to note that the \$250 fee would be in addition to the annual \$35 registration fee and the \$33 title fee and excise tax. Both the registration fee and the title fee are credited to the Highway Fund and TransCap Trust Fund. The excise tax is a municipal fee.

As you know, BMV is currently modernizing our outdated computer systems. Any system changes that are required to implement a new law will cause delays in this much needed modernization project. BMV’s current computer system does not contain a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) decoder system nor do the town vendor systems contain VIN decoders. Without a VIN decoder system, we cannot accurately identify electric vehicles from other types of vehicles. Should this bill pass, BMV would need to obtain and implement a VIN decoder system to ensure accurate fuel data is captured and the surcharge is accurately charged and collected. While BMV is working on modernization, we have not modernized the registration module yet. This would mean we would need to implement a VIN decoder and make necessary updates in our current legacy system and then implement the VIN decoder and necessary updates again in our modernized application. It should also be noted the vendor computer systems that the municipalities use to register vehicles, would also need to be modified, resulting in municipalities also paying fees to their vendors to implement the changes.

Additionally, we would need to develop a billing system for the second payment of the surcharge that would be due mid-registration year. Therefore, we are respectfully asking that the surcharge be paid in one payment, instead of two. We also have questions about the enforcement of this surcharge that is not addressed in the bill, such as will there be a violation if the surcharge is not paid, or will the registration

be suspended if the surcharge is not paid. To enforce the surcharge, BMV needs to be granted authority to impose a penalty for not paying the surcharge. If this bill passes, we recommend that a refund or prorated refund of the surcharge not be allowed. However, we also recommend allowing registrants to transfer the surcharge to a new vehicle, if they transfer the registration.

Should this bill pass, we are asking for an implementation date of March 1, 2027, to allow us enough time to add the VIN decoder application to our legacy system and provide the municipal vendors enough time to update their computer systems.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer your questions.