



## House Bill 598

### *Vehicle Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: February 15, 2018

From: Barbara Zektick

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 598. This bill would create a statewide scheme for enforcing parking spaces set aside for plug-in electric drive vehicles. Counties are concerned that the bill as introduced would unwisely limit enforcement options. However, in subsequent discussions, the bill sponsor has agreed to offer amendments that would address MACo's concerns, allowing MACo to drop its opposition.

The bill prohibits vehicles from parking in a space reserved for plug-in electric drive vehicles unless the vehicle is, itself, a plug-in electric drive vehicle. The bill, as drafted, also requires certain signage and green markings to mark spaces accordingly, and requires local governments to comply with laws applicable to private parking lot operators when towing from publicly-owned parking lots.

MACo does not contest the effort to make this violation a statewide offense. In fact, many counties already enforce this under local laws. However, terms of the bill requiring local governments to comply with towing provisions applicable to private parking lot owners under Subtitle 10A of Maryland Vehicle Law, Title 21, have the unintended consequence of prohibiting local governments from being able to enforce the terms of this bill in many cases.

Additionally, using green paint markings violates the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), adopted into Federal law under 23 C.F.R 665 and adapted into the Maryland MUTCD pursuant to Maryland Code, Transportation Article, Section 25-104. MUTCD, Section 3A.05 states, "Markings shall be yellow, white, red, blue, or purple."

MACo respectfully requests that the Committee adopt amendments offered by the sponsor addressing these issues. Otherwise, MACo requests that the Committee give HB 598 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.