

# Plug-In Electric Vehicles Using High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

This Act authorizes plug-in electric vehicles to use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes under certain circumstances. It requires the state motor vehicle administration, the state highway administration, and the state police to consult and design a permit to enable such vehicles to use HOV lanes. It authorizes charging a fee to get a permit to use the lanes, and it also authorizes limiting the number of those permits.

Submitted as:

Maryland

[Chapter 491 of 2010](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2010.

## Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1           Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act to Authorize Plug-In Vehicles  
2 to Use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes.”

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Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

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(1) “HOV lane” means a High Occupancy Vehicle lane, the use of which is restricted by  
6 a traffic control device during specific times to vehicles carrying at least a specified number of  
7 occupants.

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(2) “Plug-In vehicle” means a motor vehicle that:

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(a) Is made by a manufacturer;

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(b) Is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways;

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(c) Has not been modified from original manufacturer specifications;

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(d) Is rated at not more than [8,500] pounds unloaded gross vehicle weight;

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(e) Has a maximum speed capability of at least [65 miles per hour]; and

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(f) Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity

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from a battery that:

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(I) Has a capacity of not less than [4 kilowatt hours] for 4-wheeled motor  
17 vehicles and not less than [2.5 kilowatt hours] for 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled motor vehicles; and

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(II) Is capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity.

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(3) “Traffic control device” means any sign, signal, marking or device that is not  
20 inconsistent with [insert citation] and is placed by authority of an authorized public body or  
21 official to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

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Section 3. [*Plug-In Vehicles Authorized to Use HOV Lanes.*]

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(A) The [motor vehicle administration], the [state highway administration], and the  
25 [department of state police] shall consult to design a permit to designate a vehicle as a plug-in  
26 vehicle authorized to use an HOV lane.

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(B) The [motor vehicle administration], on the recommendation of the [state highway  
28 administration], may limit the number of permits issued to ensure HOV lane operations are not  
29 degraded to an unacceptable level.

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(C) The [motor vehicle administration] may charge a fee, not to exceed [\$20], for issuing

31 a permit under this Section.

32 (D) Whenever the [state highway administration] designates a portion of a highway as an  
33 HOV lane, the HOV lane may be used at all times by plug-in vehicles that have obtained a  
34 permit from the [motor vehicle administration] under this Section, regardless of the number of  
35 passengers in the vehicle.

36 (E) On or before [January 1 of each year], the [motor vehicle administration] and the  
37 [state highway administration] jointly shall report to the [governor] and the [general assembly]  
38 on the effects of plug-in vehicles on the operation of HOV lanes in the state.

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40 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

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42 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

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44 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]