



SPONSOR: Sen. S. McBride & Sen. Hansen & Rep. Griffith
Sens. Ennis, Gay, Mantzavinos, Sokola, Townsend,
Walsh; Reps. Baumbach, Lambert, Morrison

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 187

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 22 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE (Two-thirds of all members elected to each house thereof concurring therein):

Section 1. Amend Chapter 1, Title 22 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 119. Residential installation of electric vehicle charging station.

(a)(1) The purpose of this section is to facilitate the ownership of electric vehicles.

(2) This section applies to a municipality with a population of 30,000 or more, as based on the most recent federal census.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1)a. "Electric vehicle" means a motor vehicle that uses one or more electric motors for propulsion and which is powered through an internal battery that is charged using an external electricity source.

b. "Electric vehicle" includes both of the following:

1. A plug-in hybrid vehicle, which operates with an internal combustion engine and an electric motor that can be plugged into an external electric power source to charge the internal battery.

2. An all-electric vehicle, which operates solely from an internal electric battery.

(2) "Electric vehicle charging station" means equipment that connects an electric vehicle to an external source of electricity to recharge the electric vehicle's internal battery.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a municipality shall adopt, not later than January 1, 2023, an ordinance that establishes a procedure to obtain a permit for the installation of an electric vehicle charging station on real property zoned for residential use that abuts a residential street.

(d) The ordinance adopted under subsection (c) of this section must do all of the following:

(1) Require that the electric vehicle charging station be installed by a licensed electrician.

(2) Establish the qualifications required by the licensed electrician who installs an electric vehicle charging station under paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(3) Require the written permission of the owner of the real property on which the electric vehicle charging station is requested to be installed, including the owner of a sidewalk or strip of land adjacent to a curb abutting a residential street.

(4) Establish reasonable restrictions on the type of electric vehicle charging stations that are permitted to be installed.

(5) Provides that the municipality must approve or deny a permit within 90 days of the receipt of a permit application or the permit is automatically approved.

(6) Provide that an electric vehicle charging station or privately owned electrical services may not be installed within or affect an existing or proposed State right of way or easement area without the approval of the Department of Transportation.

(e) A municipality may not require an owner of real property to install an electric vehicle charging station for another person, including a tenant, guest, or customer. This section does not create a cause of action for the failure of the owner to install an electric vehicle charging station for another person.

(f) A municipality may provide for a process for granting dedicated or reserved parking for an electric vehicle charging station permitted under the ordinance adopted under this section.

(g)(1) Subject to paragraph (d)(2) of this section, a restriction established under paragraph (d)(4) of this section is a reasonable restriction if the restriction does not do any of the following:

a. Significantly increase the purchase price of an electric vehicle charging station or the cost to install the electric vehicle charging station.

b. Significantly decrease the efficiency or specified performance of an electric vehicle charging station.

c. Effectively prohibit the installation of an electric vehicle charging station.

(2) A restriction established under paragraph (d)(4) of this section is a reasonable restriction and a municipality may enforce and adopt the restriction if the restriction addresses any of the following:

a. Health and safety.

b. Historical design review in historically designated districts.

c. Stormwater and drain management.

d. Handicap accessibility.

e. Adequate pedestrian walkway space.

- 51 f. Adequate distance from the street.
- 52 g. The delegation of electric vehicle charging station maintenance and removal responsibilities.
- 53 h. Current and planned streetscape and landscape design.

SYNOPSIS

Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming more and more popular. Between 2012 and 2016, EV sales grew at an annual rate 32%. In 2017, growth in sales reached 45%. Batteries for EVs have become much cheaper in the last 10 years, enabling EVs to compete with traditional, fossil-fueled vehicles. In addition, major vehicle manufacturers are pledging to go all electric. Some researchers are predicting that EV sales will outnumber those of traditional, combustion engine vehicles by 2040. However, only minimal electrical charging infrastructure is available today.

This Act will make it easier and more convenient to own an electric vehicle in this State in the years to come, resulting in increased purchases of electric vehicles, promoting cleaner air and water, and resulting in improved health outcomes for Delawareans and a reduction of greenhouse gases to curtail global warming.

Specifically, this Act achieves these ends by requiring municipalities with a population over 30,000 to develop a procedure to obtain permission for the installation of an electric vehicle charging station on real property zoned for residential use that abuts a residential street.

This Act requires a greater than majority vote for passage because § 1 of Article IX of the Delaware Constitution requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly to amend a municipal charter, whether directly, by amendment to a specific municipality's charter, or, as in this Act, indirectly, by a general law.

Author: Senator S. McBride