

Clean Transportation Bills: Three bills to jumpstart an ambitious transition toward a clean transportation system for Massachusetts.

Why this is needed: The transportation sector is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts. It is expected to exceed economy-wide limits for allowable emissions by 2050. Environmental justice communities disproportionately suffer the negative impacts of transportation emissions and particulate matter *and* climate change. The Commonwealth can and must take the lead toward a clean, sustainable, and equitable transportation system. These three bills build on recommendations issued by the Governor’s Commission on the Future of Transportation, setting the goal of a zero emission transportation system by 2040.

HD 3452 / SD 1526: An Act to promote the transition to clean transportation fleets

Sponsor: Representatives Jonathan Hecht and Christine Barber, Senator Joseph Boncore

Bill Summary: This bill mandates complete electrification by 2035 of public and private large-scale fleets, targeting vehicles with the greatest turnover that contribute a large proportion of vehicle miles traveled. The bill applies to public and private owners of at least 25 vehicles, including state and municipal fleets, and prioritizes zero emission vehicle deployment in environmental justice communities. The bill requires the Secretary to create a program to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle fleets by setting incremental enforceable limits and assessing penalty fees on private owners for failure to meet program requirements.

HD 1236 / SD 1530: An Act relative to a clean transportation future (Clean Cars Act)

Sponsored by: Representative Jonathan Hecht, Senator Jason Lewis

Bill Summary: This bill mandates the transition to zero emission vehicles by requiring that all motor vehicles registered in the Commonwealth be zero emission as of January 1, 2038, effectively banning registration of internal combustion engines. As with HD 3452 / SD 1526, this bill defines “zero emissions vehicle” as any vehicle that produces zero exhaust emissions of any criteria pollutant or precursor pollutant, or greenhouse gas, excluding emissions from air conditioning systems, under any and all possible operating modes or conditions.

HD 3547: An Act promoting zero-emission vehicles

Sponsored by: Representative Jonathan Hecht

Bill Summary: This bill provides additional resources and guidance for existing programs that spur adoption of zero emission vehicles and the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The bill would codify the MOR-EV rebate program and create opt-in time of use rates for electric vehicle charging, direct the Commonwealth to identify high priority routes for public electric vehicle charging station installation, and provide cities and towns support for residential charging station programs.