

# COUNTY COUNCIL OF



ANNE  
ARUNDEL  
COUNTY

M A R Y L A N D

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY\*

To: All Councilmembers of the Anne Arundel County Council

From: Linda M. Schuett, Legislative Counsel

Date: December 7, 2020

Subject: Bill No. 106-20

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Bill No. 106-20 identifies some of the reasons for requiring that the County transition over time from purchasing or leasing vehicles with internal combustion engines to purchasing or leasing hybrid and zero-emission vehicles. Doing so, even when done incrementally, results in substantial greenhouse gas reductions. In Maryland, vehicles account for approximately 36% of carbon dioxide emissions. The Bill reflects that the County will lead by example. *See* the “whereas” clauses.

Bill No. 106-20 defines “hybrid vehicle” as a vehicle that uses two different forms of power, such as an electric motor and an internal combustion engine or an electric motor with a battery and fuel cells for energy storage. The Bill incorporates the definition of “zero-emission vehicle” contained in § 23-206.4 of the Transportation Article of the State Code. That section defines “zero-emission vehicle” as a vehicle that is determined to be of a type that does not produce any tailpipe or evaporative emissions and has not been altered from the manufacturer's original specifications. *See* subsection (b).

The Bill applies to the procurement of three types of vehicles: (1) passenger vehicles; (2) multipurpose passenger vehicles; and (3) trucks with a load capacity of three quarters of a ton and a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less. *See* subsection (a). State law defines a multipurpose passenger vehicle as one that (1) is designed primarily for carrying persons and which is constructed on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operations;

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\* This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

(2) has three wheels; or (3) is of a unique design that does not clearly meet the requirements of any other class. *See* § 11-136.2 of the Transportation Article of the State Code.

The Bill has a two-phase approach. It requires the County to procure hybrid or zero-emission vehicles beginning on the effective date of the Bill as vehicles are replaced or additional vehicles are added. In fiscal year 2035 and thereafter, all newly procured vehicles must be zero-emission vehicles. These two requirements are contingent on the ability of the purchasing agent to determine that the vehicles will meet the financial, operational, and technological needs of the using agencies. If the purchasing agent determines hybrid or zero-emission vehicles do not meet these needs, the purchasing agent must purchase or lease vehicles with the lowest emissions that do meet the financial, operational, and technological needs of the using agency. *See* subsection (c)(1) through (3).

The Bill contains a reporting requirement. The purchasing agent, by no later than August 31 of each year, must submit a report to the County Executive and the County Council. The report must describe the vehicle procurements made during the preceding fiscal year. *See* subsection (c)(4).

Finally, the Bill requires the Office of Central Services to complete a plan by the end of fiscal year 2025. The plan must describe infrastructure, charging, and maintenance needs and any staff, training, equipment, or contracted resources are needed to meet the requirements of the section. *See* subsection (d).