County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Bill No. 36-2014

Introduced by Jen Terrasa

AN ACT prohibiting a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle that is not a plug-in vehicle in a parking space that is designated in a certain manner for the use of plug-in vehicles and provides access to a plug-in vehicle recharging station; establishing certain standards for signage designating reserved parking for certain plug-in vehicles; authorizing a certain property owner to have a vehicle that is stopped, standing, or parked in violation of this Act towed or removed under certain circumstances, subject to certain standards and requirements; and generally relating to reserved parking spaces for plug-in vehicles.

Introduced and read first time July 7, 2014. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _______________________
Sheila M. Toller, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on July 14, 2014.

By order _______________________
Sheila M. Toller, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on July 25, 2014 and Passed ______, Passed with amendments ______, Failed ______.

By order _______________________
Sheila M. Toller, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval third day of July, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.

By order _______________________
Sheila M. Toller, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive July 30, 2014

Ken Ulman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.
Section 1. Be it enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:

By amending:

Title 21 - Traffic control and transportation.

Subtitle 2. - Standing, stopping, and parking of vehicles; automated enforcement.

Part I. Parking zones and enforcement; automated enforcement.

Section 21.207. Parking restrictions.

Part II. In general.

Section 21.221. Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.

Title 21 - Traffic control and transportation.

Subtitle 2. - Standing, stopping, and parking of vehicles; automated enforcement.

Part I. Parking zones and enforcement; automated enforcement.

Sec. 21.207. Parking restrictions.

(a) Department of Public Works [may establish]. Except as provided in section 21.105 of this title, ON PROPERTY THAT IS UNDER THE COUNTY'S JURISDICTION, the Department of Public Works may:

(1) prohibit or establish a time limit on parking on any highway [under the County's jurisdiction]; AND

(2) DESIGNATE EACH PARKING SPACE WHERE A PLUG-IN VEHICLE MAY BE RECHARGED.

(b) Signs. The Department of Public Works shall place and maintain appropriate signs [on a highway that is subject to] INDICATING a parking restriction under SUBSECTION (A) of this section.

(c) PLUG-IN VEHICLE RECHARGING STATIONS.

(1) IN THIS SECTION, PLUG-IN VEHICLE MEANS A VEHICLE THAT:
(i) is made by a vehicle manufacturer;

(ii) is manufactured primarily for use on a public street, road, and highway;

(iii) has a rated unloaded gross vehicle weight of no more than 8,500 pounds;

(iv) has a maximum speed capability of at least 55 miles per hour; and

(v) is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that:

(A) for a 4-wheeled vehicle, has a capacity of at least 4 kilowatt-hours;

(B) for a 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled vehicle, has a capacity of at least 2.5 kilowatt-hours; and

(C) can be recharged from an external source of electricity.

(2) plug-in vehicle includes a qualifying vehicle that has been modified from the original manufacturer’s specifications.

(3) except as provide in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle in a space that is posted for the exclusive use of plug-in vehicles:

(i) under subsection (b) of this section for county property; or

(ii) by the property owner for private property.

(4) a plug-in vehicle may be parked in a space that is posted for the use of plug-in vehicles.

(5) a sign that designates a space under this subsection must meet be at least 12 inches by 18 inches and meet any applicable state or federal standards for parking control signs.

Part II. In general.
Sec. 21.221. Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.

(a) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law or directions of a Police Officer or traffic control device, an individual may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle:

(1) In front of or within five feet of a public driveway, or within a private driveway, without the consent of the owner or occupant of the premises;

(2) Within an intersection;

(3) Within a tee or modified tee turnaround;

(4) On a sidewalk or pathway;

(5) On a pedestrian or school crosswalk;

(6) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb;

(7) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;

(8) Upon any bridge (or other elevated structure);

(9) Within a highway tunnel;

(10) On any ramp entering onto or exiting from any highway;

(11) On any property of the Howard County Board of Education where an official sign or curb markings prohibit or restrict such parking;

(12) At any place where an official sign or curb markings prohibit stopping, standing or parking;

(13) Within 30 feet to the approach to any official regulatory signal, sign or traffic-control device located on the side of the roadway, with the exception of parking signs;

(14) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;

(15) On the traveled portion of any roadway;

(16) Within 100 feet to the approach of an intersecting street, highway or commercial private property driveway, except in any residentially zoned district;

(17) In any hazardous or congested parking area posted as a no-parking, tow-away zone;

[or]

(18) Adjacent to the center island of a cul-de-sac; OR
(19) EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY § 21.207 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IN A SPACE

posted for a plug-in vehicle.

(b) The Police Department may impound a vehicle for a violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3),
(4), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (14), (15), [or] (17), OR (19) OF THIS SECTION.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that
this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.