



**Testimony in support of**  
**H.3347/S.2151 An Act promoting zero-emission vehicles**  
**Submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy**  
**By Tanya Roy, LWVMA Transportation Legislative Specialist**  
**July 28, 2021**

This bill, H.3347/S.2151, An Act promoting zero-emission vehicles, would authorize the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to establish a rebate program to defray the cost for consumers of purchasing or leasing zero-emissions vehicles. Since the existing MOR-EV (MA Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles, see <https://mor-ev.org>) program is running out of funds, this bill is critically needed to authorize a new rebate program to encourage electric vehicle purchases or leases. The bill also requires (1) DOER to publish a guide to help municipalities develop programs allowing residents to install charging stations (2) power companies to offer variable rates to consumers (to encourage energy conservation, avoid overloading facilities, and save consumers money) (3) DOER and the Department of Transportation to identify locations of high priority for public charging station installation (based on traffic volume and other data).

The bill requires the Registry of Motor Vehicles to disclose upon registration the type of vehicle and address of registered owner to utility, the Department of Public Utilities and DOER, with quarterly updates. This report is needed so utilities can send consumers important info about time-varying rates, options, incentives in order to educate, encourage good habits, and avoid exacerbating peak loads. Such reporting would provide exact statistics on the number and location of electric cars, something that is lacking today. The bill contains important privacy protection language.

LWVMA supports this bill because it encourages environmentally-sensitive, cost-effective zero-emission vehicles. It would support building out the infrastructure necessary to support the continued growth of such vehicles. The League is in favor of a transportation system that includes a variety of transportation modes, including zero-emission vehicles, given that the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Zero-emission vehicles play an important role in reducing GHG emissions and air pollution as they are more energy efficient and do not produce any tailpipe emissions during use. Their quiet engines also contribute to decreased noise pollution, thereby reducing noise-pollution-related health problems. Transportation modes should be efficient, convenient, and cost effective in order to maximize their use across Massachusetts. They must also be accessible to all segments of the population. This bill is a step in the right direction for Commonwealth residents.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges this committee to report H.3347/S.2151 favorably and in a timely manner for passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

90 Canal Street Suite 414, Boston, MA 02114  
TEL: 857-452-1715 E-MAIL: [lwwma@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwma@lwwma.org)