



# THE ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION ACT H7653/S2448

The Electric Transportation Act will prepare Rhode Island for the future of clean and healthy mobility by creating a transition plan to ensure all Rhode Islanders see the benefits of electric vehicles on a timeline that aligns with the emissions reduction mandate established by the Act On Climate.

The global transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is underway: **electric cars are cleaner, cost less to own, and are better for our health than the gas-powered cars they're replacing.**

Major automakers including Ford, GM, and Volkswagen are now investing more in scaling up EV production than they are in gasoline-powered car production.

It's time for Rhode Island to fast-track drivers' access to:

- Cleaner and quieter vehicles over time
- Improved air quality by reducing tailpipe emissions
- Lower healthcare costs
- Local jobs to upgrade the electric grid and install EV charging
- Lower and more consistent vehicle fuel and maintenance costs for drivers

## The Electric Transportation Act will:



- ◆ Lay the groundwork for 100% of new vehicles to be electric by 2030



- ◆ Improve air quality in communities overburdened by pollution



- ◆ Require 100% light-duty state vehicle procurements to be electric 2027



- ◆ Calculate how many public EV charging stations are needed across the state



- ◆ Set goals for the number of EVs needed through 2030 to comply with RI's climate goals



- ◆ Require all new school bus procurements to be electric by 2030



- ◆ Align regulations with the advanced fuel economy standards from California



- ◆ Plan for upgrades to electric distribution infrastructure



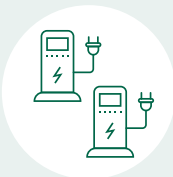
- ◆ Establish purchase incentives for new EVs



- ◆ Establish purchase incentives for electric bikes



- ◆ Offer technical support for municipalities to electrify their fleets



- ◆ Prepare state facilities to install charging infrastructure



- ◆ Develop a plan to retrain workers impacted by the transition away from gasoline



- ◆ Reduce vehicle-miles-travelled by at least 4% by 2030



- ◆ Coordinate planning for electrification across state agencies



- ◆ Create utility programs to minimize the impact of charging on the grid and lower fuel costs for EV drivers

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is an EV?

An electric vehicle is a vehicle with a battery pack charged using electricity. Plug-in hybrid vehicles (vehicles with a rechargeable battery and a gas backup) with at least 25 miles of all-electric range count as EVs.

### Are EVs really better for the climate?

Yes – an electric car charged in RI reduces climate-warming gases by 78% for every mile driven. Electric cars are lower emissions because they use less energy per mile and because the electricity mix is cleaner than gasoline. The bonus is that because RI will get its electricity from cleaner resources over time, EVs will get cleaner, too.

### How will the Electric Transportation Act improve health?

Reducing tailpipe pollution saves lives. One study attributed 119 premature deaths in 2016 alone to the ozone and particulates that gasoline- and diesel-burning vehicles emit. Children and people with pre-existing respiratory conditions are most vulnerable to the health impacts of tailpipes.

The American Lung Association estimates the transition to EVs will lead to \$178 million in annual avoided healthcare costs for Rhode Island in 2050. Savings come from fewer premature deaths, fewer lost-work days, and fewer avoidable trips to the ER. By advancing the electrification of school buses, transit buses, and diesel-burning trucks, we can deliver on better health outcomes for children and communities overburdened by air pollution.

### What does it mean to phaseout gasoline cars in 2030?

The goal is that after 2030, no new gas-powered cars will be registered in-state; used cars from model year 2029 or earlier would still be allowed. Establishing a phaseout date is necessary to reach net-zero by 2050 because cars can last 15+ years on the road. If we phaseout new gas-powered cars starting in 2030, drivers will still have the option to own older gas-powered cars through 2050, as the phaseout only affects new cars.

### Do Rhode Islanders want electric vehicles?

According to public polling, yes! About half of drivers are considering an EV for their next car. Americans also largely support policies to phaseout gasoline-powered vehicles starting in 2030. The Electric Transportation Act will aim to address key barriers preventing Rhode Islanders from accessing EVs, including establishing an EV purchase incentive program to increase affordability and expanding charging access.

### Will EV technology be ready?

There are now electric sedans, SUVs, and pick-up trucks of all sizes available for purchase with 250+ miles of range per charge and many more are expected to be on the market by 2025. Experts believe electric cars will be cheaper to buy than gas-powered cars by 2026-2029, depending on vehicle size. The point of establishing a transition plan is to keep Rhode Island on pace with how quickly the technology is improving.

### How will this impact Rhode Island's economy?

States that do not produce petroleum will benefit the most economically from the transition to electric vehicles. Shifting the consumption of gasoline to electricity keeps more dollars in Rhode Island's economy, since electricity generation is localized to the region.

On the consumer side, electric cars are cheaper to own and operate than gas-powered cars. A transition to EVs will lower the cost of vehicle ownership and lead to consumer savings, estimated to be as much as \$6,000 over a vehicle's lifetime. Savings are expected to be particularly high for high-mileage drivers in rural areas, drivers of large vehicles who will see huge gains in vehicle efficiency, and drivers of pre-owned vehicles.

## THE BILL HAS FOUR SECTIONS:

### 1. REGULATION

Commits RI to adopting advanced fuel standards out of California within one calendar year of release. Our regulations should align with the largest car market in the US to avoid falling behind.

### 2. PREPARATION

Establishes an goal to make 100% of new vehicle registrations electric in RI by 2030 and a transition plan to make the 2030 date feasible.

### 3. PUBLIC INPUT

Establishes an Equity Advisory Board for Clean Transportation to prioritize investments that reduce emissions and ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Members of community, health, and labor groups will make sure no one is left behind in the transition.

### 4. COMMITMENT

Directs the State to lead by example by requiring 100% of state fleet vehicle procurements to be electric by 2027. Since EVs cost less to own on a lifetime basis, the state's transition should save taxpayer dollars over the long run.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MAL SKOWRON

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM &  
POLICY COORDINATOR

 [mal@greenenergyconsumers.org](mailto:mal@greenenergyconsumers.org)