



State of Vermont
Division of Policy, Planning and
Intermodal Development
Barre City Place, Suite
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641
vtrans.vermont.gov

Agency of Transportation

[phone] 802-505-3480
[ttd] 800-253-0191

Memo

To: Senate Transportation Committee
From: Michele Boomhower, Division Director
Date: April 4, 2022
Re: H. 736 – 2022 Transportation Bill – electric vehicle eligibility - criteria update

Absent language which provides the Agency flexibility in modifying eligibility guidelines, there ought to be some provision which allows meaningful access to vehicles for households with specialized vehicle needs for handicapped accessibility. Such vehicles often exceed the current, and even the proposed vehicle eligibility guidelines, including the popular Chrysler Pacifica PHEV which had been previously eligible, but now carries a base MSRP of about \$48k. That model is eligible for up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits—depending on the applicant’s tax liability—and could therefore see a reduction below \$40k with a combination of state and utility incentives and federal tax credits.

Below is some proposed language to carve out an exception for families requiring an accessible (and possibly more expensive) PEV. The relevant section appears on page 16 of [H.736](#):

“Sec. 5. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34(b), as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 14, 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. G.112, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 56, and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 19 is further amended to read: (b) Electric vehicle incentive program. An incentive program for Vermont residents to purchase and lease new PEVs shall structure PEV purchase and lease incentive payments by income to help Vermonters benefit from electric driving, including Vermont’s most vulnerable. The program shall be known as the Incentive Program for New PEVs. Specifically, the Incentive Program for New PEVs shall:

* * *

apply to manufactured PEVs with a Base Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$40,000.00-\$45,000.00 or less; [or any manufactured PEV which provides accessible transportation for a member of the incentive recipient’s household with a disabled plate or parking placard issued by Vermont DMV as defined by 23 V.S.A. §304a](#); and...”

Please let us know if you have questions.