

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

SB 150-FN, defining electric vehicle charging station and charging a fee for annual testing by the division of weights and measures.

Hearing Date: February 4, 2025

Time Opened: 1:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:15 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Defines electric vehicle charging station.

II. Charges a fee for annual testing by the division of weights and measures.

III. Authorizes the department of agriculture, markets, and food to appropriate funds for electric vehicle charging station testing and certification.

Sponsors:

Sen. Watters

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Long

Rep. C. McGuire

Rep. Sykes

Who supports the bill: Senators Donovan Fenton and Debra Altschiller; Representative Janet Lucas; Patricia Anastasia; Daniel Richardson.

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith; Curtis Howland; Donna Beaupre; Steven Beaupre; Evan Oxenham

Who is neutral on the bill: Commissioner Shawn Jasper, Department of Agriculture; Jessica Wilcox, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Cheryl Ayer, Division of Weights and Measures; Sean Evans-Brown, Executive Director, Clean Energy New Hampshire.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator David Watters:

- Senator Watters introduced a bill to define electric vehicle charging station inspection protocols and associated fees, arguing that these stations should be

treated as service-providing devices, like gas pumps, and subject to comparable inspection protocols.

- This bill would target commercial charging stations by creating a position for an employee to conduct annual inspections for a charge of \$175.
- Senator Watters stated New Hampshire is expected to increase the amount of electric vehicle charging stations in the coming years and the fee for the inspections will begin to contribute more to the program, with the caveat that the bill needs an amendment to ensure that the money from the fees goes towards the program.
- Senator Fenton asked why this program is under the Department of Agriculture, to which Senator Watters replied the Division of Weights and Measures Department is a division within the Department of Agriculture.
- Senator McConkey asked if New Hampshire was generating revenue from electric charging stations. Senator Watters indicated the state is not.

Neutral Information Presented:

Commissioner Shawn Jasper, Department of Agriculture and Cheryl Ayer, Director of Division of Weights and Measures:

- Commissioner Jasper stated his department does not have the funds or resources to complete these inspections.
- He emphasized the importance of consumer confidence and that it is unclear if they are getting their money's worth out of these charging stations,
- The cost of the bill would be covered by the associated inspection fee and the fee could be reduced over time.
- Senator Prentiss asked if the job would be in the Department of Agriculture and what the timeframe would be for putting an employee in the field. Commissioner Jasper confirmed the job would be in their department and an employee could be put into the field by January 2026.
- Senator McConkey asked if other states are currently doing this. Director Ayer verified that Vermont and New York perform these inspections.
- Senator McConkey inquired if there was a need for an annual inspection and or could the inspection could take place every other year to reduce the burden on the business owners. Commissioner Jasper replied the legislature requires the department to protect the consumer and not the business owner.
- Senator McConkey asked how much the testing equipment would cost, to which Commissioner Jasper estimated \$122,000.

Sam Evans Brown, Executive Director, Clean Energy New Hampshire

- The electric vehicle (EV) charging business model is still developing and the profit margins are thin.
- Mr. Evans-Brown stressed the importance of consumer protection. There is a wide variety in efficiency depending on the charger.

- Mr. Evans-Brown noted concern that the bill's language is too broad relating to which chargers would be subject to inspection. He suggested the bill should target publicly available fast charging stations to start.
- Mr. Evans-Brown the \$175 fee would not be an issue if the bill targeted fast-charging stations backed by funded programs.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 4, 2025