

# SUPPORT HB107

Topic: Rural Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program and Fund  
Bill Patron: Delegate Sullivan

## OVERVIEW:

Creates the Rural Charging Infrastructure Program and Fund, providing developers with grants covering up to 70% of the costs associated with the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in rural, low-income localities.

## Reasons to support:

- Many major auto manufacturers – like Ford, Volkswagen, and General Motors – are transitioning to all-electric fleets by 2030 - 2035, necessitating a buildout of EV charging stations statewide.
- The \$106 million in federal funding for EV chargers is designated for major travel corridors. Virginia does not currently have funds set aside for EV charging stations in rural areas that are not along highways. Without incentives to specifically support rural charging development, rural Virginia will continue to be left behind.
- Developers will be more eager to invest in charging infrastructure in low-income rural areas if there are dedicated state funds to assist in their installation. The current demand for rural EV charging is limited by range anxiety of EV drivers. Without geographically dispersed chargers, EV drivers will not be able to travel to non-metropolitan areas of Virginia.
- EV charging stations near tourist destinations in low-income rural localities will ensure that people continue to visit the region as EVs become more prevalent, maintaining an essential contributor to the tax base and associated essential services, and supporting local businesses.
- With many EVs now achieving price parity with traditional gas-combustion vehicles, this bill will allow rural residents to reap cost savings associated with utilizing electricity, which is cheaper per mile than gas, as a fuel source.
- Installing an at-home EV charger can be an expensive undertaking and is not usually an option for renters. Publically accessible EV chargers are crucial to widespread EV adoption and help reduce the cost of switching to an EV.



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