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CLUB**
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MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

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Provide Incentives for the Purchase and Use of Electric Vehicles

Formal Title: pending

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Jonathan Hecht

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New file

Background:

The transportation sector is a significant cause of global warming gasses, particulates, smog, and asthma related pollutants. Vehicle innovation is critical to pollution reduction. Electric vehicles (EVs) have little or no tailpipe emissions, and when compared to nearly all conventional vehicles on the road today, they are responsible for lower overall emissions of CO₂ and most harmful pollutants, even when power plant emissions are factored in.

- Electric vehicles enable drivers to fill up on stable, domestic electricity at a cost equivalent to approximately 75 cents per gallon.
- Americans send up to a third of a trillion dollars overseas each year to purchase foreign oil, often produced by nations that are unstable or unfriendly. Foreign oil purchases are also responsible for about 50% of the US trade deficit. Greater independence from oil means an economically stronger and more secure America.
- Advances in EV technology have enabled the production of vehicles with greater range at lower costs.
- Infrastructure (e.g. charging stations) has lagged behind.

This bill would

- Provide a modest financial incentive when purchasing a new or used EV by exempting them from the state sales tax.
- Modeled after the state's existing sales tax exemption on airplanes and parts, this would also exempt the resale, conversion to EVs from sales taxes. It would also exempt the purchase of EV charging stations.
- Set minimum requirements for the installation of EV charging stations for parking facilities. It would not change the ability of EV charging station operators to levy reasonable charges.
- Allow EVs to use HOV lanes