

Howard County Police Department
Education and Training Division

TRAINING BULLETIN
2019-04

June 27, 2019

Parking Citations: Plug-in Vehicles

Effective July 1, 2019 finalized County Legislation will prohibit the parking of non-Plug-in (electric) vehicles in posted areas. The legislation provides that the law may be enforced by the Department on both public AND private property. This Bulletin provides guidance when responding to calls for service for this type of parking complaint.

Section 21.207 (a) to (d) – Parking Restrictions (County Code)

- a) Department of Public Works. Except as provided in section 21.105 of this title, on property that is under the County’s jurisdiction, the Department of Public Works may:
 - (1) Prohibit or establish a time limit on parking on any highway; and
 - (2) Designate each parking space where a plug-in vehicle may be recharged.

- b) Signs. The Department of Public Works shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating a parking restriction under subsection (a) of this section.

- c) Plug-in vehicle recharging stations.
 - (1) In this section, plug-in vehicle means a vehicle that:
 - (i) Is made by a vehicle manufacturer
 - (ii) Is manufactured primarily for use on a public street, road, and highway;
 - (iii) Has a rated unloaded gross vehicle weight of no more than 8,500 pounds;
 - (iv) Has a maximum speed capability of at least 55 miles per hour; and
 - (v) Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that:
 - (A) For a four-wheeled vehicle, has a capacity of at least four kilowatt-hours;
 - (B) For a two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicle, has a capacity of at least 2.5 kilowatt-hours; and
 - (C) Can be recharged from an external source of electricity.
 - (2) Plug-in vehicle includes a qualifying vehicle that has been modified from the original manufacturer’s specifications
 - (3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle in a space that is posted for the exclusive use of plug-in vehicles:
 - (i) Under subsection (b) of this section for County property; or
 - (ii) By the property owner for private property.
 - (4) A plug-in vehicle may be parked in a space that is posted for the use of plug-in vehicles.
 - (5) A sign that designates a space under this subsection must be at least 12 inches by 18 inches and meet any applicable State or Federal standards for parking control signs.

- d)
 - (1) The Police Department may enforce this section on public property or private property.
 - (2) The Police Department may impound a vehicle that is parked in violation of this section.

Key Points:

- Legislation enforceable on public and private property.
- Private property owners/managers may designate spaces for plug-in vehicles and place plug-in signs. Signs are enforceable only if they meet designated standards.
- Legislation applies to 2, 3, and 4 wheeled plug-in vehicles.
- Legislation does not apply to plug-in vehicles over 8,500 lbs. gross vehicle weight (trucks)
 - Checking the registration through MVA will provide you with a GVW if not sure.
- Legislation ONLY applies to plug-in vehicles.
 - There are certain Hybrid vehicles that are partially powered by an electric drive motor from an internal combustion engine. Depending on the make and model, these Hybrid vehicles may or may not have an electric plug-in. Only vehicles that have a plug-in are permitted to park in designated plug-in spaces.



- Proper signage must be present to enforce the legislation. The below pole sign must be present for enforcement to take place.
 - Posted time limitations may vary, however parking a non-plug-in vehicle in a space posted for a plug-in vehicle (regardless of time limitations) is prohibited. There are no specific provisions in the Code for enforcing time limits.



-Not Enforceable, No “Sign”-

-Enforceable, “Sign”-

- There are other no parking signs throughout the county prohibiting the parking of non-hybrid or non-low emission vehicles. These types of signs are only enforceable on county property as “official sign” violations (21.221(a)(12) and are pre-printed on the parking citation.



- The only sign currently enforceable on county & private property related to Plug-in vehicles is the below.



- Pending revisions to the Parking Citation Book, the appropriate charging section, wording, and fine to write in the parking citation is as follows:
 - **Ordinance Number:** 21-221(a)(19) **Other:** “Parking in A Space Posted for A Plug-in Vehicle”
 - **Fine:** \$35.00
- Under the County Code, the payment due date for all parking citations is 15 calendar days from the issue date

/PRM-4334

For additional information regarding this Training Bulletin, please contact The Traffic Enforcement Section
410-313-4750.