

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2653

To amend title 23, United States Code, to permit the use of certain electric vehicle charging stations at rest areas on the Interstate System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to permit the use of certain electric vehicle charging stations at rest areas on the Interstate System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recharge your Electric  
5 Car on the Highway to Alleviate Range Gaps Effectively  
6 Act” or the “RECHARGE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF AND ACCESS TO REST AREAS ON THE**  
 2 **INTERSTATE SYSTEM FOR ELECTRIC VEHI-**  
 3 **CLE CHARGING STATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of title 23, United  
 5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 6 lowing:

7 “(f) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-  
 9 sections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall permit, con-  
 10 sistent with section 109(s), electric vehicle charging  
 11 infrastructure for passenger automobiles (as defined  
 12 in section 32901(a) of title 49) at rest areas on the  
 13 Interstate System.

14 “(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this sub-  
 15 section permits commercial activities on rights-of-  
 16 way on the Interstate System except as necessary  
 17 for the charging of electric vehicles in accordance  
 18 with this subsection.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY  
 21 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Section 149(c)(2) of title  
 22 23, United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) by striking “such stations” and insert-  
 24 ing “such natural gas vehicle refueling sta-  
 25 tions”; and

1 (B) by striking “of title 23, United States  
2 Code”.

3 (2) JASON’S LAW.—Section 1401(d)(2) of the  
4 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act  
5 (23 U.S.C. 137 note; Public Law 112–141) is  
6 amended by striking “Electric vehicle battery charg-  
7 ing stations or natural” and inserting “Natural”.

8 (c) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—Nothing in this Act  
9 or an amendment made by this Act is intended as a state-  
10 ment of congressional intent with respect to the existing  
11 authority of the President or any other Federal agency  
12 under section 111 of title 23, United States Code.

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