



ACTION ALERT: SUPPORT AB 326 (Muratsuchi/Allen)

- Expands Accessibility to EVs for ALL Californians with no loans, finance or interest charges, long-term commitments or predatory lending.
- Supports California’s zero emission vehicle goals without added state funding.
- Supports job creation and job security for over 275,000 EV-related employees in California.

Assembly Bill 326 will create a legal framework for “Electric Vehicle Memberships” which will allow consumers access to EVs without financing or long-term commitments through a direct month-to-month agreement with an electric vehicle manufacturer. The bill is supported by a broad coalition of consumer, and environmental organizations and businesses because of the positive impact it will have in making electric vehicles more accessible and affordable, accelerating the replacement of California’s aging vehicle fleet with newer, safer, and cleaner vehicles. **AB326 is needed because the Electric Vehicle Membership model does not squarely fit into existing laws regulating the rental car industry or vehicle leasing.**

AB 326 has been amended to now expand the option to offer Electric Vehicle Memberships beyond electric mobility manufacturers to all existing OEMs, rental car companies, and commercial truck manufacturers. The legislation would also expand the definition to include all types of EVs not just passenger vehicles.

AB 326 is Needed Now More Than Ever: Increasing accessibility to EVs will help achieve the goals of cleaner air and lower carbon outputs while promoting economic activity and improving access to newer, proven safety technology. This is especially important now, during the COVID pandemic and the resulting job losses and economic fallout, leaving CA unable to provide the tax incentives offered in the past to encourage EV adoption.

AB 326 Expands Consumer Access to Electric Vehicles: In a recent nationwide study conducted by Volvo Car and The Harris Poll, consumers cited the upfront cost of EVs as a leading barrier to entry. The bill will provide a new option for ALL California consumers to access zero-emissions electric vehicles without having to enter into costly, burdensome, long-term loans and leases that too often result in excessive charges and predatory, discriminatory lending practices.

AB 326 will Spur California Towards Achieving Our Clean Air Goals: Mass adoption of electric vehicles will not happen in the state as long as electric vehicles continue to be more expensive than combustion-engine vehicles. AB 326 makes it more affordable to try driving an EV without a long-term financial commitment. According to CALPIRG, in a Volvo/Harris Poll study, the largest reason that drivers cited as avoiding purchase of an EV is “range anxiety”. AB 326 relieves those concerns by allowing consumers to try EVs through short-term, renewable memberships.

AB 326 Supports California’s Electric Vehicle Industry and its Employees: Expanded access of EVs to consumers will grow California’s electric vehicle industry, largely headquartered in Southern California. At a time with unprecedented unemployment, AB 326 will spur job growth in the burgeoning EV industry in California which is home to 13 EV manufacturers, 43 EV companies with design, R&D or warehouses in this state, and 275,600 employees.

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