



Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45

House Bill 292: Create Electric Vehicle Commission
June 22, 2021

Chair Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 292 which creates the Electric Vehicle Commission with my joint sponsor, Rep. Cutrona.

House Bill 292 is bi-partisan legislation that establishes the Electric Vehicle Commission and creates a temporary sales tax exemption for electric vehicle production parts. The bill is modeled after recent legislation in the Indiana State Legislature.

The Commission consists of four current lawmakers. Two from the Senate, and two from the House, each one split between the Majority and Minority Caucus. The Governor shall appoint three members, one to each represent the following: local governments, organized labor operating in the automotive industry, and automotive industry itself. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of an amendment to add a representative of automotive dealerships. The commission shall be responsible for evaluating the impact on jobs related to electric vehicle production, training, research and development, and the effectiveness of the tax exemption. The full list of responsibilities is in the bill language under Sec. 4501.821 (B). The commission is required to submit an annual report to Department of Transportation and Leadership of each chamber.

House Bill 292 creates a temporary exemption on the sales tax for qualifying property. The sunset of the exemption is December 31, 2026. The definition of qualifying property is narrow. It is for parts specifically designed for electric vehicle production. It does not include car parts such as tires or radios that are also used for combustion engine vehicles.

Electric Vehicles are on track to be the primary car of tomorrow and will replace current cars, similarly to the onset of the combustible engine in the early 20th century. However, there are many factors and unknowns about the changing industry including the impact on jobs, workplace protection, consumer protection, environmental protections,

and what can be done to encourage production growth. Therefore first creating a commission to study and make recommendations is a prudent course of action.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I am happy to answer any questions or address any concerns after the testimony of my joint sponsor.