

Comparison of HOV Rules in Maryland and Virginia

Maryland and Virginia have very different exemption programs to allow the use of travel lanes reserved for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) by low emission vehicles, regardless of the number of passengers.

Maryland has HOV lanes in operation on I-270 during rush hours and on US 50 between the Capital Beltway (I-95/I-495) and US 301 (Crain Highway) in Prince George's County 24-hours per day. The only exemption from the two+ passenger rule is for Plug-in Electric Vehicles that have a sticker issued by Maryland Motor Vehicles (MVA).

Virginia, on the other hand, issues special "Clean Fuel" license plates to eligible vehicles. Several types of vehicles are eligible for these plates besides plug-ins. Some, but not all hybrids are eligible, along with other fuel types. There is a list of qualifying vehicles for each year. There are also differences related to when your vehicle received a "Clean Fuels" plate and which HOV lane you are using. There are currently 3 different plates applicable to different HOV lanes. Here are the current criteria and vehicle list:

Qualifications for Clean Special Fuel License Plates

In order for your vehicle to qualify as clean fuel it must be **exclusively** powered by clean special fuel. The following types of fuels may qualify a vehicle for clean special fuel plates:

- Compressed Natural Gas
- Electricity
- Ethane
- Hybrid Gasoline/Electric
- Hydrogen
- Hythane
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- Methane
- Solar
- or Combination of two types of clean special fuels

Please refer to the table below for a list of vehicles qualifying for clean special fuel license plates

Clean Special Fuel Plate Types

DESCRIPTION



This plate is issued on or after July 1, 2011, and exempts the vehicle from the occupancy requirements of any HOV lanes except those in the I-95/395 corridor and I-66 corridor.



This plate was issued between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2011, and exempts the vehicle from the occupancy requirements of any HOV lanes except those in the I-95/395 corridor.



This plate was issued before July 1, 2006, and may be used in HOV lanes statewide without regard to the occupancy requirement.

Here's the list of specific vehicles eligible.

YEAR	QUALIFYING VEHICLES
2015	Acura ILX 1.5L, Cadillac ELR 1.4L, Chevrolet Volt 1.4L, Hyundai Sonata 2.4L, Kia Optima 2.4L, Lexus RX450h 3.5L
2014	Acura ILX 1.5L, Acura RLX 3.5L, BMW I3 REX 6.0L, Buick Lacross 2.4L, Buick Regal 2.4L, Cadillac ELR 1.4L, Chevrolet Volt 1.4L, Chevrolet Impala 2.4L, Chevrolet Malibu 2.4L, Ford C-Max 2.0L, Ford C-Max Energi Plug-in 2.0L, Ford Focus Electric, Ford Fusion 2.0L, Ford Fusion Energi Plug-in 2.0L, Honda Accord 2.0L, Honda Accord Plug-in 2.0L, Honda Civic 1.5L, Honda Civic 1.5L (Man.), Honda CR-Z 1.5L, Honda Insight 1.3L, Hyundai Sonata 2.4L, Kia Optima 2.4L, Lexus ES300h 2.5L, Lexus GS450h 3.5L, Lexus RX450h 3.5L, Lexus LS 600hL 5L, Lincoln MKZ 2.0L, Mercedes Benz E400 3.5, Nissan Leaf, Tesla S, Porsche Panamera S. 3.0L, Subaru XV Crosstrek 2.0L, Tesla X, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Avalon 2.5L, Toyota Camry 2.5L, Toyota Highlander 3.5L, Toyota Prius c 1.5L, Toyota Prius v 1.8L, Toyota Prius 1.8L, Toyota Prius 1.8L Plug-in, Toyota RAV 4 EV, Volkswagen Jetta 1.4L
2013	Acura ILX 1.5L, Buick Lacross 2.4L, Buick Regal 2.4L, Chevrolet Volt 1.4L,

YEAR**QUALIFYING VEHICLES**

- Chevrolet Malibu 2.4L, Ford C-Max Energi Plug-in 2.0L, Ford Fusion Energi Plug-in 2.0L, Honda Civic 1.5L (auto-CVS trans.), Honda Civic 1.5L (Man.), Honda CR-Z 1.5L, Honda Insight 1.3L, Hyundai Sonata 2.4L, Kia Optima 2.4L, Lexus CT 200h 1.8L, Lexus ES300h 2.5L, Lexus GS450h 3.5L, Lexus RX450h 3.5L, Lexus LS 600hL 5L, Mercedes-Benz S400 3.5, Mercedes Benz E400 3.5, Nissan Leaf, Tesla S, Tesla X, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Avalon 2.5L, Toyota Camry 2.5L, Toyota Highlander 3.5L, Toyota Prius c 1.5L, Toyota Prius 1.8L, Toyota Prius v 1.8L, Volkswagen Jetta 1.4L
- 2012 Buick Lacross 2.4, Buick Regal 2.4, Chevrolet Volt 1.4L, Fisker Karma 2.0L, Ford Escape 2.5L, Ford Fusion 2.5L, Honda Civic 1.5L (auto-CVS trans.), Honda Civic 1.5L (manual), Honda CR-Z 1.5L, Honda Insight 1.3L, Hyundai Sonata 2.4L, Kia Optima 2.4L, Lexus CT200h 1.8 L, Lexus HS250h 2.4L, Lexus RX 450h 3.5L, Lexus LS 600hL 5L, Lincoln MKZ 2.5L, Mercedes-Benz S400 3.5, Mercury MKZ 2.5L, Nissan Leaf, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Camry 2.5L, Toyota Highlander 3.5L, Toyota Prius c 1.5L, Toyota Prius 1.8L, Toyota Prius 1.8L plug-in
- 2011 Chevrolet Volt 1.4L, Ford Escape 2.5L, Ford Fusion 2.5L, Honda Civic 1.3L, (auto-CVS trans.), Honda CR-Z 1.5L, Honda Insight 1.3L, Hyundai Sonata 2.4L, Kia Optima 2.4L, Lexus CT200h 1.8L, Lexus HS250h 2.4L, Lexus GS450h 3.5L, Lexus RX450h 3.5L, Lexus LS 600hL 5L, Lincoln MKZ, Mazda Tribute 2.5L, Mercedes-Benz ML450 3.5, Mercedes-Benz S400 3.5, Mercury Mariner 2.5L, Mercury Milan 2.5L, Nissan Altima 2.5, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Camry 2.4L, Toyota Highlander 3.5L, Toyota Prius 1.8 L
- 2010 Ford Escape 2.5L, Ford Fusion 2.5L, Honda Civic 1.3L, Honda Insight 1.3L, Lexus GS450h 3.5L, Lexus HS250h 2.4L, Lexus RX450h 3.5L, Mazda Tribute 2.5L, Mercedes-Benz ML450, Mercedes-Benz S400, Mercury Mariner 2.5L, Mercury Milan 2.5L, Nissan Altima 2.5, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Camry 2.4L, Toyota Highlander 3.3L, Toyota Prius 1.8L
- 2009 Ford Escape, Honda Civic, Lexus GS450h, Lexus LS600h, Mazda Tribute, Mercury Mariner, Nissan Altima, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Camry, Toyota Camry Hybrid 2.4 L., Toyota Highlander, Toyota Prius

2008	Ford Escape, Honda Civic, Lexus GS450h, Lexus RX400h, Lexus LS600hL, Mazda Tribute, Mercury Mariner, Nissan Altima 2.5, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Camry, Toyota Highlander, Toyota Prius
2007	Ford Escape, Honda Accord, Honda Civic, Lexus GS450h, Lexus RX400h, Mercury Mariner, Nissan Altima 2.5, Toyota Camry, Toyota Highlander, Toyota Prius
2006	Ford Escape, Honda Accord, Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Lexus RX400, Mazda Tribute, Mercury Mariner, Toyota Highlander, Toyota Prius
2005	Ford Escape, Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius
2004	Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius
2003 and Earlier	Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius

NOTE: As new vehicles qualify, this information will be updated.