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2D SESSION

S. 4084

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to review and establish guidance and best practices for responding to electric vehicle fires, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to review and establish guidance and best practices for responding to electric vehicle fires, 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 “Responder and Recov-
5 ery Safety in EV Fires Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRE RESPONSE WORKING**
7 **GROUP.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) ELECTRIC VEHICLE.—The term “electric
2 vehicle” means a car, bus, or truck, including an
3 automobile or commercial medium- or heavy-duty
4 on-highway vehicle (as those terms are defined in
5 section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code),
6 that—

7 (A) is manufactured primarily for use on
8 public roads or highways; and

9 (B) contains a battery or similar energy
10 storage device that provides motive power to
11 propel the car, bus, or truck.

12 (2) PUBLIC ROAD.—The term “public road”
13 has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of
14 title 23, United States Code.

15 (3) ROADSIDE INCIDENT.—The term “roadside
16 incident” means an incident involving an electric ve-
17 hicle that occurs on a public road or any area adja-
18 cent to a public road as a result of the use of the
19 electric vehicle on the public road, including—

20 (A) on the shoulder or median of a public
21 road;

22 (B) at a charging station for electric vehi-
23 cles that is open to the public; and

24 (C) on a parking deck or lot that is open
25 to the public.

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Transportation.

3 (5) WORKING GROUP.—The term “working
4 group” means the Electric Vehicle Fire Response
5 Working Group established under subsection (b).

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a working group, to be known as the “Electric Ve-
9 hicle Fire Response Working Group”.

10 (c) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be com-
11 posed of not fewer than 22 members, including—

12 (1) at least 2 representatives of the towing in-
13 dustry, appointed by the Secretary from among indi-
14 viduals nominated by appropriate entities operating
15 in or representing the towing industry, including—

16 (A) if nominated, at least 2 representatives
17 nominated by the Towing and Recovery Asso-
18 ciation of America (commonly known as the
19 “TRAA”); and

20 (B) such other representatives of the tow-
21 ing industry as the Secretary determines to be
22 appropriate;

23 (2) at least 6 representatives of emergency re-
24 sponse personnel, appointed by the Secretary from
25 among individuals nominated by appropriate entities

1 representing emergency response personnel who may
2 respond to electric vehicle fires, including—

3 (A) if nominated—

4 (i) at least 1 representative nominated
5 by the International Association of Fire
6 Chiefs (commonly known as the “IAFC”);

7 (ii) at least 1 representative nomi-
8 nated by the International Association of
9 Fire Fighters (commonly known as the
10 “IAFF”);

11 (iii) at least 1 representative nomi-
12 nated by the National Volunteer Fire
13 Council (commonly known as the
14 “NVFC”);

15 (iv) at least 1 representative nomi-
16 nated by the International Association of
17 Chiefs of Police (commonly known as the
18 “IACP”);

19 (v) at least 1 representative nomi-
20 nated by the National Association of State
21 Emergency Medical Services Officials
22 (commonly known as the “NASEMSO”);
23 and

24 (vi) at least 1 representative nomi-
25 nated by the American Public Works Asso-

1 ciation (commonly known as the
2 “APWA”); and

3 (B) such other representatives of emer-
4 gency response personnel as the Secretary de-
5 termines to be appropriate;

6 (3) at least 6 representatives of the automotive
7 industry, appointed by the Secretary from among in-
8 dividuals nominated by appropriate entities oper-
9 ating in or representing original equipment manu-
10 facturers of electric vehicles or the component parts
11 of electric vehicles, including—

12 (A) if nominated—

13 (i) at least 1 representative nominated
14 by the Zero Emission Transportation Asso-
15 ciation (commonly known as the “ZETA”);

16 (ii) at least 1 representative of manu-
17 facturers of electric buses;

18 (iii) at least 1 representative of manu-
19 facturers of electric commercial medium-
20 or heavy-duty on-highway vehicles;

21 (iv) at least 1 representative of manu-
22 facturers of electric vehicle batteries;

23 (v) at least 1 representative of manu-
24 facturers or installers of electric vehicle
25 supply equipment; and

1 (vi) at least 1 representative of manu-
 2 facturers of electric vehicles; and

3 (B) such other representatives of the elec-
 4 tric vehicle manufacturing industry as the Sec-
 5 retary determines to be appropriate;

6 (4) at least 4 representatives of research, stand-
 7 ards-setting, or training organizations with expertise
 8 relating to the risks of electric vehicle fires and elec-
 9 tric vehicle fire response, including—

10 (A) if nominated—

11 (i) at least 1 representative nominated
 12 by the National Fire Protection Associa-
 13 tion (commonly known as the “NFPA”);

14 (ii) at least 1 representative nomi-
 15 nated by the Emergency Responder Safety
 16 Institute (commonly known as the
 17 “ERSI”);

18 (iii) at least 1 representative nomi-
 19 nated by the Fire Safety Research Insti-
 20 tute of UL Research Institutes (commonly
 21 known as “UL-FSRI”); and

22 (iv) at least 1 representative nomi-
 23 nated by the Society of Automotive Engi-
 24 neers International (commonly known as
 25 the “SAE”); and

1 (B) such other representatives of research,
2 standards-setting, or training organizations as
3 the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

4 (5) 1 representative of the National Transpor-
5 tation Safety Board, appointed by the National
6 Transportation Safety Board;

7 (6) 1 representative of the National Highway
8 Traffic Safety Administration, appointed by the Sec-
9 retary, acting through the Administrator of the Na-
10 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

11 (7) 1 representative of the Federal Highway
12 Administration, appointed by the Secretary, acting
13 through the Administrator of the Federal Highway
14 Administration;

15 (8) 1 representative of the United States Fire
16 Administration, appointed by the Administrator of
17 the United States Fire Administration; and

18 (9) such other representatives of a Federal
19 agency as the Secretary determines to be appro-
20 priate, such as representatives of—

21 (A) the Department of Transportation (in-
22 cluding any relevant agency or modal adminis-
23 tration of the Department of Transportation);

24 (B) the Department of Energy;

1 (C) the intelligence community (as defined
2 in section 3 of the National Security Act of
3 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)); or

4 (D) Federal law enforcement agencies.

5 (d) HEAD.—The Secretary shall select 1 member of
6 the working group to serve as head of the working group.

7 (e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the working group
8 shall serve without compensation.

9 (f) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

10 (1) continuously review—

11 (A) known and developing risks relating to
12 electric vehicle fires and electric vehicle fire re-
13 sponse;

14 (B) existing best practices, standards, and
15 guidance relating to electric vehicle fire re-
16 sponse; and

17 (C) roadside incidents involving electric ve-
18 hicle fires, including any response procedures
19 utilized; and

20 (2) based on that review, periodically issue or
21 update best practices and guidance for responding to
22 electric vehicle fires.

23 (g) DATABASE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The working group shall—

1 (A) report roadside incidents involving
2 electric vehicle fires for inclusion in the data-
3 base established and maintained pursuant to
4 section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and
5 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) (also
6 known as the “National Emergency Response
7 Information System” or the “NERIS”); and

8 (B) coordinate with the United States Fire
9 Administration to maintain and update that
10 database, including by ensuring that the data-
11 base includes, to the maximum extent prac-
12 ticable, the information described in paragraph
13 (3) with respect to roadside incidents.

14 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator of the
15 United States Fire Administration shall publish the
16 information in the reports required by paragraph (1)
17 in the database described in that paragraph.

18 (3) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent prac-
19 ticable, the reports required by paragraph (1) shall
20 include, with respect to each roadside incident re-
21 ported—

22 (A) the location of the incident;

23 (B) the time of the incident and response;

24 (C) the conditions at the scene, such as—

25 (i) the weather;

1 (ii) the presence or absence of day-
2 light;

3 (iii) the presence or absence of pas-
4 sengers, pedestrians, or other vehicles; and

5 (iv) such other conditions as the work-
6 ing group determines to be relevant;

7 (D) the practices and procedures used to
8 respond to the electric vehicle fire;

9 (E) the results of the incident and re-
10 sponse; and

11 (F) such other information relating to a
12 roadside incident as the working group deter-
13 mines to be appropriate.

14 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—The working group shall sub-
15 mit to Congress and make publicly available an annual
16 report on the work of the working group during the pre-
17 vious year, including—

18 (1) a summary of any best practices and guid-
19 ance issued or updated; and

20 (2) a summary of any issues for which new or
21 updated best practices or guidance is being consid-
22 ered.

23 (i) FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code
24 (commonly referred to as the “Federal Advisory Com-
25 mittee Act”), shall not apply to the working group.

1 (j) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
3 administrative support for the working group in a
4 manner consistent with the provision of support
5 services under section 1011 of title 5, United States
6 Code.

7 (2) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use existing
8 funds available to the Secretary to carry out para-
9 graph (1).

10 (k) TERMINATION.—The working group shall termi-
11 nate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which
12 the working group is established under subsection (b).

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