



## Electric Vehicles/Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Updates and New Purchasing Strategies for Municipalities and State Entities

New legislation now provides municipal organizations and state entities with a path to procure Electric Vehicles (EVs) and the installation of EV charging infrastructure in a single, combined open, fair, and competitive procurement. These new laws simplify the procurement process, provide the opportunity to better control timing, coordinate funding, and address supply chain issues. Additionally, eligible entities may seek to procure this equipment using Statewide Contract <u>VEH102</u> Advanced Vehicle Technology Equipment, Supplies, and Services, and <u>VEH110</u> Light and Medium-Duty Vehicles.

Prior to the enactment of this legislation, procurement of EV infrastructure components was considered installation under the construction statutes. The new EV procurement legislation incorporates elements of a public construction contract for governmental bodies for the installation of charging infrastructure. Accordingly, cities, towns, and school districts and state entities will need to adhere to the standard public construction requirements for labor harmony certification, OSHA training certification, prevailing wage, and bonding.

## **Overview of the Legislation**

<u>Chapter 206 of the Acts of 2024</u>, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2024 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and For Certain Other Activities and Projects," ("State Agency EV Legislation") updated G.L. c. 7, § 22P to permit governmental bodies, including executive departments, to procure electric vehicles and the necessary charging infrastructure according to the rules of G.L. c. 7. This law became effective as of September 16, 2024.

When the State Agency EV Legislation became effective, there was no similar legislation in G.L. c. 30B permitting cities, towns, and school districts to purchase this equipment on the same terms. However, Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, "An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers," ("Municipal EV Legislation") amended G.L. c. 30B, § 23 to similar rules for EV procurements to municipalities. This legislation was enacted on November 20, 2024, and became effective on February 19, 2025. The Municipal EV Legislation and the State Agency EV Legislation now authorize public purchasers to procure EVs and its related equipment installation on one procurement, allowing entities to procure EVs and EV supply equipment separately or together.

For municipalities, if electric vehicles and charging stations and their installation are procured in a single procurement, both are considered supplies, opening up the use of OSD Statewide Contracts.



## **Upcoming OIG and OSD Webinars**

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Operational Services Division (OSD) are pleased to announce a joint webinar, *Electric Vehicles/Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Purchasing Strategies Under 30B and Statewide Contracts*, to assist eligible entities in navigating these changes.

This free webinar will be offered on the following dates and times:

- April 4, 2025, from 10:00- 11:30 a.m.
- May 15, 2025, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- June 17, 2025, from 10:00- 11:30 a.m.

To register, click <u>here</u>, and scroll down to locate the webinar title: *Electric Vehicles/Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Purchasing Strategies Under 30B and Statewide Contracts*, then select the offering that best fits your schedule.

## **Questions?**

Municipalities may contact the OIG for guidance on the changes to the legislation or Chapter 30B technical assistance by calling the Procurement Support Hotline at 617-722-8838 or emailing <a href="mailto:30BHotline@mass.gov">30BHotline@mass.gov</a>.

Those interested in using Statewide Contracts may reach out to OSD Category Manager <u>Kelly Thompson Clark</u> at 617-720-3184 or OSD Category Manager <u>Nikki Santana</u> at 617-720-3174 with Contract-related questions for <u>VEH102</u> Advanced Vehicle Technology Equipment, Supplies, and Services, and <u>VEH110</u> Light and Medium-Duty Vehicles. Contact the <u>OSD Help Desk</u> at 888-627-8283 with general questions.