

**103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2023 and 2024****SB3323**

Introduced 2/7/2024, by Sen. Dan McConchie

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Station Act. Requires the Department of Transportation to ensure that charging stations in the State are sufficiently accessible to allow independent use by drivers with disabilities, including people who have limited or no hand dexterity, limb differences, or upper extremity amputations and use adaptive driving controls. Requires chargers designed to serve people who use mobility devices to be located on an accessible route. Provides that the Department shall adopt the technical requirements for accessible routes established under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the federal Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) including walking surfaces, curb ramps, and ramps. Establishes that a charging space with mobility features must provide a vehicle space with a minimum width of at least 11 feet and a minimum length of at least 20 feet. Requires chargers to provide a clear floor or ground space. Requires clear floor or ground spaces to meet ADA requirements for ground and floor surfaces, including criteria for firmness, stability, and slip resistance. Provides that a reasonable number of chargers, as determined by the Department, shall comply with ADA operable parts requirements, including technical requirements for clear floor or ground space, reach ranges, and operation. Provides that a connector must allow operation with one hand and no tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist, and with no more than 5 pounds of force. Provides that all chargers operated or maintained by any entity within the State must comply with the technical requirements for hardware under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Grants rulemaking authority. Defines terms.

LRB103 35969 MXP 66056 b

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Station Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "AC Level 2" means a charger that uses a 240-volt  
8 alternating-current electrical circuit to deliver electricity  
9 to an electric vehicle.

10 "ABA" means the federal Architectural Barriers Act of  
11 1968.

12 "ADA" means the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of  
13 1990.

14 "Charger" means a device with one or more charging ports  
15 and connectors for charging electric vehicles. "Charger" also  
16 includes electric vehicle supply equipment.

17 "Charging port" means the system within a charger that  
18 charges an electric vehicle. A charging port may have multiple  
19 connectors, but it can only provide power to charge one  
20 electric vehicle through one connector at a time.

21 "Charging station" means one or more chargers at a common  
22 location. "Charging station" includes a large site, such as a  
23 parking lot or parking garage, that has multiple charging

1 stations.

2 "Charging station operator" means the entity that operates  
3 and maintains the chargers and supporting equipment and  
4 facilities at one or more charging stations. "Charging station  
5 operator" also includes a charging point operator.

6 "Connector" means a device that attaches electric vehicles  
7 to charging ports to transfer electricity.

8 "Contactless payment methods" means a secure method for  
9 consumers to purchase services using a debit, credit,  
10 smartcard, or another payment device by using radio frequency  
11 identification technology and near-field communication.

12 "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

13 "Direct current fast charger" or "DCFC" means a charger  
14 that uses a 3-phase, 480-volt alternating current electrical  
15 circuit to enable rapid charging through the delivery of  
16 direct current electricity to the electric vehicle.

17 "Electric vehicle" means an automotive vehicle that is  
18 either partially or fully powered by electricity.

19 "ICT" means information and communication technology.

20 "Site" means a parcel of land bounded by a property line or  
21 a designated portion of a public right-of-way.

22 "Vehicle charging inlet" means the inlet on a vehicle into  
23 which a connector is plugged. "Vehicle charging inlet" also  
24 includes a charging port or charging door.

25 "Vehicle charging space" means a space to park a vehicle  
26 for charging. A vehicle charging space can be a marked parking

1 space or an unmarked area adjacent to a charger.

2 Section 10. Accessible chargers; accessible routes.

3 (a) The Department shall ensure that charging stations in  
4 this State are sufficiently accessible to allow independent  
5 use by drivers with disabilities, including people who have  
6 limited or no hand dexterity, limb differences, or upper  
7 extremity amputations and use adaptive driving controls. A  
8 reasonable number of chargers, as determined by the  
9 Department, must have physical access for people who use  
10 mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and  
11 canes. Chargers must have accessible communication features  
12 and operable parts. All chargers containing ICT that are  
13 developed, procured, maintained, or used by any entity within  
14 the State must comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation  
15 Act and have accessible ICT, including accessible hardware,  
16 software, and operable parts.

17 (b) Chargers designed to serve people who use mobility  
18 devices must be located on an accessible route and must  
19 provide:

20 (1) a vehicle charging space that is at least 11 feet  
21 wide and 20 feet long;

22 (2) an adjoining access aisle that is at least 5 feet  
23 wide;

24 (3) a clear floor or ground space at the same level as  
25 the vehicle charging space and positioned for an

1 unobstructed side reach; and

2 (4) accessible operable parts, including parts on the  
3 charger and connector.

4 (c) The Department shall adopt the technical requirements  
5 for accessible routes established by the ADA and ABA  
6 standards, including walking surfaces, curb ramps, and ramps.

7 Section 15. Electric vehicle charging space; access aisle.  
8 Charging spaces with mobility features must provide a vehicle  
9 space with a minimum width of at least 11 feet and a minimum  
10 length of at least 20 feet. Adjacent to the vehicle charging  
11 space shall be an access aisle that is at least 5 feet wide and  
12 the full length of the vehicle charging space. Where vehicle  
13 charging spaces are marked, access aisles shall also be marked  
14 to restrict parking in them. The width of the vehicle charging  
15 spaces and access aisles is measured to the centerline of  
16 markings, but it can include the full width of lines where  
17 there is no adjacent vehicle space or access aisle.

18 One access aisle may be shared by 2 vehicle charging  
19 spaces, or a charging space and a parking space, but overlap of  
20 the aisle shall be limited to 5-feet.

21 Access aisles shall not be blocked or obscured by curbs,  
22 wheel stops, bollards, or charging cable slack. Floor or  
23 ground surfaces of vehicle charging spaces and access aisles  
24 must comply with Section 302 of the American with Disabilities  
25 Act.

1           The access aisle shall be connected by an accessible route  
2 to the clear floor or ground space at the charger. When  
3 charging cables are less than 10 feet, the charger must be  
4 positioned so that the operable parts and clear floor or  
5 ground space are on the same side as the access aisle.

6           Section 20. Clear floor or ground space. Chargers shall  
7 provide a clear floor or ground space. Clear floor or ground  
8 spaces must meet ADA requirements for ground and floor  
9 surfaces, including criteria for firmness, stability, and slip  
10 resistance. The clear floor or ground space must be free of  
11 changes in level and not sloped more than 1:48. Grass, curbs,  
12 wheel stops, and bollards shall not be located within the  
13 clear floor or ground space. Clear floor or ground space at  
14 chargers must be a minimum of 30 inches by 48 inches.  
15 Additional space may be required where the clear floor or  
16 ground space is confined on 3 sides and obstructed for more  
17 than half the depth. Chargers shall be installed at the same  
18 level as the vehicle charging space and access aisle so that  
19 the clear floor or ground space can be placed as close as  
20 possible to the charger. If chargers must be installed on a  
21 curb, such as at on-street parking, the charger must be placed  
22 as close to the edge of the face of the curb as possible and no  
23 farther than 10 inches away from the face of the curb.

24           Section 25. Operable parts within reach range. A

1 reasonable number of chargers, as determined by the  
2 Department, shall comply with Section 309 of the Americans  
3 with Disabilities Act operable parts requirements, including  
4 technical requirements for clear floor or ground space, reach  
5 ranges, and operation. Operable parts on chargers shall  
6 include, but are not limited to, the connector, card readers,  
7 electronic user interfaces, and switches and buttons,  
8 including the emergency start or stop button. All operable  
9 parts shall also meet the ADA requirements for an unobstructed  
10 side reach and be no higher than 48 inches above the clear  
11 floor or ground space and no farther than 10 inches away. An  
12 exception for a fuel dispenser shall not be used. Operable  
13 parts shall be placed at a reasonable height, as determined by  
14 the Department, but not less than a minimum of 15-inches from  
15 the base of the charger.

16 Section 30. Connectors; charging cables. Connectors must  
17 allow operation with one hand and no tight grasping, pinching,  
18 or twisting of the wrist, and they must require no more than 5  
19 pounds of force to operate.

20 Lightweight charging cables, including, but not limited  
21 to, AC Level 2 and DCFCs shall be of sufficient length, as  
22 determined by the Department, to charge a vehicle with various  
23 charging inlet locations. Heavier and shorter DCFC cables  
24 shall be able to charge a vehicle positioned at least 5-feet  
25 away and shall be installed so that users can access the

1 vehicle charging inlet, access aisle, and charger. Charging  
2 cables shall not block or obstruct accessible routes when  
3 stored or when connected to vehicles.

4 Section 35. Accessible communication features; user  
5 interface.

6 (a) All chargers that are procured or maintained within  
7 the State must comply with the technical requirements for  
8 hardware under Section 508 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

9 (b) Display screens shall:

10 (1) be visible from a point located 40 inches above  
11 the clear floor or ground;

12 (2) avoid bright and rapid flashing lights;

13 (3) include at least one mode with text characters in  
14 a sans serif font and have an adjustable text size or a  
15 minimum character height of 3/16 inch;

16 (4) enable speech output that includes:

17 (A) an option for display screens to provide  
18 speech output that is capable of full and independent  
19 use by individuals with vision impairments;

20 (B) coordination with information displayed on the  
21 display screen;

22 (C) capabilities that allow for pausing and  
23 repeating; and

24 (D) volume controls; and

25 (5) include Braille instructions for initiating the



1 speech output function.

2 (c) Input controls shall include:

3 (1) a label on keys and visual controls with high  
4 contrast;

5 (2) a control that is tactically discernible;

6 (3) a QWERTY layout when alphabetical keys are  
7 provided;

8 (4) a 2-second delay before input of a key is  
9 repeated; and

10 (5) a visual, auditory, or tactile alert that notifies  
11 the user when a timed response is required and gives the  
12 user an opportunity to indicate more time is needed.

13 (d) If the charger requires the user to have an NFC  
14 keychain card or other physical token that requires a  
15 particular orientation for its use, then the card or token  
16 must provide a tactically discernible orientation.

17 Section 40. Contactless payment systems; customer service.

18 (a) Registration and payment card readers shall be  
19 compatible with contactless payment systems, shall be  
20 tactically discernible, and shall provide visual and audible  
21 feedback.

22 (b) Charging station operators shall provide customer  
23 service, help support, or other mechanisms to report outages,  
24 malfunctions, obstructed chargers, and other issues.

1           Section 45. Electric vehicle charging station location  
2 within a site. A charging station must connect to an  
3 accessible route that leads to an accessible entrance of the  
4 building or facilities on the same site. Additionally, the  
5 accessible chargers shall be on the shortest accessible route  
6 to the accessible entrance relative to other chargers at the  
7 same charging station.

8           Charging stations in parking garages must provide an  
9 accessible route that connects to the accessible pedestrian  
10 entrance of the parking garage. Additionally, a minimum  
11 vertical clearance of 98 inches must be maintained throughout  
12 the vehicular route to the accessible vehicle charging space  
13 and access aisle.

14           Sites with charging stations as the primary purpose shall  
15 include accessible routes that connect to any amenities on the  
16 site and, if provided, a sidewalk in the public right-of-way.

17           Charging stations added to existing sites must comply with  
18 the ADA and ABA requirements for alterations and additions. In  
19 alterations, compliance with the ADA and ABA standards is  
20 required to the maximum extent feasible. If charging stations  
21 are added to an existing site, they must connect to an  
22 accessible route and a reasonable number of chargers, as  
23 determined by the Department, must comply with Section 309 of  
24 the Americans with Disabilities Act and have a clear floor or  
25 ground space and operable parts within reach range.

1           Section 50. Electric vehicles charging stations at  
2 residential facilities. Shared or common-use chargers located  
3 at residential facilities in the State must be accessible.  
4 Chargers that are designated to specific residential units  
5 shall provide the appropriate accessibility features. When  
6 residential facilities designate parking spaces to each  
7 residential unit, the parking space for the mobility  
8 accessible unit must be an accessible parking space. A charger  
9 provided for a mobility accessible residential unit must have  
10 a charging space with accessible mobility features. A charger  
11 provided for a communication accessible residential unit must  
12 have a charger with accessible communication features.

13           Section 55. Rules. The Department shall adopt rules to  
14 implement and administer this Act.