

March 5, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 907 – Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards  
- Photo Identification***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on Senate Bill 907 for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 907 would require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to offer the option of printing a handicap placard owner’s photo on the placard upon request of an applicant eligible for a non-expiring handicap parking placard. The MVA would also need to furnish a privacy sleeve to cover the color photograph on the placard.

Currently, customers can apply for a handicap parking placard applications using either MVA’s online or in-person services. In Fiscal Year 2023, 54% of placard applications were processed at an MVA branch office with similar rates for the current fiscal year. When a customer makes a branch appointment, the MVA provides same-day issuance of the parking placard. The placard includes a unique number that is registered with MVA databases and accessible by law enforcement to confirm its authenticity and the name of the owner.

At present, three states (Massachusetts, South Carolina, and New Mexico) issue a handicap parking placard with a photo on the placard, though none of those states offer a non-photo option. Massachusetts offers a privacy sleeve that is required to be removed upon request of a law enforcement official. The MVA would need to alter its printing of placards to provide for a color photo. This would require a centralized printing operation which would result in up to several weeks before the product can be fulfilled for applicants who request the color photo option.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 907.

Respectfully submitted,

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