
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 1096 – Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Identification of Nonapparent Disability

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 1096 would require the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to provide applicants who disclose to the MVA that they have a nonapparent disability with an indicator on the applicant's identification card or driver's license. MDOT's top priority is safety and we appreciate the intent behind this legislation.

Currently, the MVA provides upon request a Developmental Disability Disclosure Card, colloquially referred to as a "blue card" due to the color of the card, which is the size of a driver's license. It includes space for an individual to provide specific details of a developmental disability and give guidance on effective communication between law enforcement officers and the individual with a developmental disability.

Development Disability Disclosure Cards are voluntary and available at any of the MVA branches across the state. Information on how to obtain the blue card is also available on MVA's website and online services. MVA representatives do not require customers and/or parents/guardians to disclose or present any documentation of their disability to obtain this card.

Over the past two years MVA has developed partnerships with several organizations including Pathfinders for Autism, The Arc Maryland, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and Maryland Disabilities Council to help spread awareness on the availability of the blue card. MVA has worked with partners to create toolkits to help provide this information to the communities in which they serve and provides the blue cards for these trusted partners to use when they are out in the community. MVA has also furthered efforts to assist these groups by providing printing of toolkits with important information about blue card and MVA. The MVA has partnered with counties in Maryland and the Pathfinders for Autism organization to host mock traffic stops and provide blue cards upon request.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 1096.

Respectfully submitted,

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