



Maryland

Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB0907 Motor Vehicles- Disability Parking Placards- Photo Identification

3/05/24

Position: Oppose

Synopsis:

Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration, on request, to issue a disability parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder; and requiring a parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder to include a privacy sleeve that allows a person to freely display or hide the color photograph.

Honorable Chairperson, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, run for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and our mission is to promote self-advocacy throughout the state.. POG opposes SB0907 because not only do we feel that a parking placard with a photo of the placard holder is excessive, but we worry about spotlighting to the public that the placard holder has a disability. This is an issue of privacy.

Along with the issue of privacy, no other group of people would find this acceptable. In the age of deep fakes, we are putting people with disabilities at risk of identity theft. Additionally, if the individual has their face on the placard and the staff person is holding it, there could be issues with communicating this to the officer requesting confirmation of proper possession of the placard. There is also the issue that if there is no photo on the placard, the requesting officer may treat them differently, as it could be seen eventually as an expectation to have.

This is ultimately an unnecessary measure to take and could actively harm people with disabilities, and this is why POG opposes SB0907.

Thank you,

Cody Drinkwater
Policy Coordinator of People on the Go