

SB907 - Testimony - F.pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV

MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
Legislative District 47
Prince George's County

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Executive Nominations Committee

Education, Energy and the
Environment Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2024

Senate Bill 907 - Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **Senate Bill 907 - Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification**, which proposes important enhancements to our state's motor vehicle administration practices concerning parking placards. I believe firmly in the necessity of efficient and equitable transportation systems that cater to the needs of all citizens, including those with disabilities.

Senate Bill 907 aims to address a *crucial* aspect of parking placard issuance and enforcement by mandating the inclusion of an embedded color photograph on these placards. This provision ensures greater accountability and security in the use of parking placards, ultimately benefiting both individuals with disabilities and the community at large. The requirement for a color photograph embedded on parking placards serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it facilitates easier identification of the placard holder, enhancing the efficiency of law enforcement officers and authorized personnel in verifying the legitimacy of parking privileges. This can help deter misuse and abuse of parking placards, a practice that unfortunately occurs all too frequently.

Secondly, the inclusion of a privacy sleeve that allows individuals to freely display or conceal the photograph adds an extra layer of privacy protection. It respects the dignity and privacy of placard holders, addressing concerns regarding the potential misuse of personal information associated with the placard. It's worth noting that similar legislation has been successfully enacted in other states, including *Massachusetts*, *New Mexico*, and *South Carolina*, underlining the effectiveness and feasibility of such measures. By aligning our state's practices with these precedents, we demonstrate our commitment to adopting best practices and ensuring consistency in enforcement across jurisdictions.

In South Carolina, legislation (S.C. Stat. § 56-3-1960) mandates that disabled parking placards adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act specifications, include the International Symbol of Access, and be color-coded for user status. Blue and red placards in the state require the user's photograph, sourced from their driver's license, with exemptions for agencies. The issue of stolen placards is addressed by Illinois, where a tiered pricing and time limit system based on disability severity replaced the previous free parking system. Baltimore introduced a similar approach, modifying meters for disabled use and allocating dedicated spaces, subjecting users to the regular meter fee. Connecticut law outlines eligibility criteria and placard renewal procedures, emphasizing exclusivity for the disabled person's use.

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Massachusetts and New Mexico respond to privacy concerns by concealing photographs on placards through optional security sleeves or flaps. In New Mexico, the photograph is placed on the inside of the placard, covered by a flap (N.M.S.A. § 66-3-16 (E) (4)).

I have been actively collaborating with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to coordinate efforts related to this legislation. Throughout this process, I have consistently worked to ensure alignment with the department's recommendations and have proactively incorporated their suggestions into the legislative framework, fostering a cohesive partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

Senate Bill 907 empowers the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish procedures for capturing and embedding the color photograph on parking placards. This provision enables the MVA to tailor the implementation process to our state's specific needs and capabilities, ensuring a smooth transition and effective execution of the new requirements. This piece of legislation represents a vital step towards enhancing the integrity and effectiveness of our state's parking placard system. By incorporating an embedded color photograph and providing necessary safeguards for privacy, we can foster greater accountability, deter misuse, and ensure equitable access to parking facilities for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I urge the committee to give a **favorable** report for **Senate Bill 907 - Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Augustine".

Senator Malcolm Augustine

SB 1096.pdf

Uploaded by: Dorothy Plantz

Position: FWA

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

March 5, 2024

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

Position: Support with Amendments

Dorothy Plantz, Advocate
District 12A
10128 Spring Pools Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
Dorothy.greenthumb@gmail.com

As a parent with an adult son with autism and co-chair of the Governmental Affairs committee for the Arc of Maryland I have expressed concerns about SB 1096 as it stands. As such, I would like you to accept the friendly amendments that are being recommended by the Arc of Maryland. Only adding an ND designation to the card will not meet the outcomes desired by the bill as it now reads for individuals with nonapparent disabilities.

Training of law enforcement individuals is crucial. The Ethan Saylor Alliance was created in 2015 to provide this essential training to law enforcement since individuals with nonapparent disabilities may exhibit unexpected behaviors when under the stress of being stopped by law enforcement. Providing information and training benefits not only the individuals with nonapparent disabilities but law enforcement as well so that they possess the tools necessary to respond to individuals rather than make an unfortunate mistake which may lead to harm for both the individual and law enforcement. Funding for the Ethan Saylor Alliance has remained stagnant and must be resolved.

It is my understanding that the notation ND can never be removed once placed on the license/identification card. This information will be stored in the MVA system forever, never to be fully purged. I would strongly agree with the Arc of Maryland that the state should strengthen the use of the blue card which was created several years ago for similar purposes. The advantage of the blue card is that individuals would voluntarily self-disclose to the police their disability by carrying the blue card along with their identification/license without the establishment of a permanent record. All individuals would benefit including law enforcement and those with limited words and the permanent record would be protected.

It is also my understanding that the use of this card would be a basis for initiating a review by the Medical Advisory Board which could lead to a physician recertification process on a periodic basis for the individual to drive. This level of scrutiny should not be automatic. Therefore, this bill needs to protect individuals who have ND on their license from this practice.

Thank you for reviewing my concerns regarding this bill.

SB0907.pdf

Uploaded by: Cody Drinkwater

Position: UNF



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

SB0907 - MVA - Disability Parking Placards - Photo

Uploaded by: Nora Corasaniti

Position: INFO

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,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090