



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB1481**

March 25, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1481 - Disability Services - Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program - Established

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill (HB) 1481.

HB 1481 would establish the Adapted Vehicle Access Program within the Maryland Department of Disabilities (DOD) to assist individuals living with disabilities who require mobility aid with acquiring adapted vehicles. The purpose of the program is to support individuals who use wheelchairs and require adapted vehicles to drive but do not qualify for other adapted vehicle programs offered by the DOD. HB 1481 would prioritize individuals without access to adequate public transportation or other mobility aid programs to close the gaps in vehicle accessibility needs for individuals living with disabilities. As the State struggles with a budget shortfall and plans to reduce funding for the DOD, providing other ways for persons with disabilities to work and live independently is a priority. This program would be fulfilled by vehicle donations and funds from private corporations, public corporations, and the federal government.

HB 1481 would benefit people with disabilities without relying on DOD funds by creating a pilot program to provide adapted vehicles for persons who use wheelchairs for mobility where such persons cannot otherwise afford them. Such vehicles can be expensive, but particularly for those living in remote locations are essential to ensuring meaningful accessibility for individuals living with mobility related disabilities. The program would last for five years, during which time the bill calls for a study and report as to the program's effectiveness. Through this report, the program would provide invaluable information to both the public and private sector in terms of best practices for providing accessible transportation.

Because of the above reasons, the Baltimore City Administration respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill 1481.