

JEN TERRASA
Legislative District 13
Howard County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 25, 2025

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 1371 – Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses -
Electronic Credentials (Maryland Mobile ID Enhancement Act)

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1371, the “Maryland Mobile ID Enhancement Act.” This legislation aims to modernize and expand the use of electronic credentials in our state, building upon the successful implementation of the Maryland Mobile ID initiative.

In 2022, Maryland took a pioneering step by introducing digital driver’s licenses and state IDs, allowing residents to add their credentials to mobile wallets. This initiative has seen significant adoption, with over 200,000 Marylanders integrating their IDs into platforms such as Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, and Samsung Wallet.

Key Provisions of HB 1371:

- **Authorization for MVA Agreements:** The bill empowers the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to enter into agreements with national associations of motor vehicle agencies. This collaboration will facilitate the issuance, use, and verification of electronic credentials across state lines, promoting interoperability and convenience for our residents.
- **Use of Electronic Credentials for Vehicle Rentals:** HB 1371 expands the use of electronic credentialing by permitting individuals to present electronic credentials, displaying a valid driver’s license, when renting vehicles. This provision modernizes the rental process, aligning it with current technological advancements and consumer expectations.

Importance of the Legislation:

- **Strengthen Security and Privacy:** Mobile IDs offer advanced security features, including encryption and biometric authentication, reducing the risk of identity theft and fraud. Users maintain control over their personal information, sharing only what is necessary for verification.
- **Enhancing Convenience and Efficiency:** Allowing electronic credentials streamlines various processes, from airport security checks to vehicle rentals, providing residents with a seamless and efficient experience.
- **Providing Economic and Environmental Benefits:** Transitioning to digital credentials can reduce the costs associated with producing physical IDs and decrease environmental waste, aligning with Maryland's sustainability goals.

Alignment with Federal Standards:

It's important to note that beginning May 7, 2025, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will require REAL ID-compliant identification for domestic flights and access to certain federal facilities. HB 1371 ensures that Maryland's Mobile ID meets these federal standards, providing our residents with compliant and convenient identification options.

House Bill 1371 represents a significant step forward in modernizing Maryland's identification systems, enhancing security, and providing greater convenience for our residents.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1371 to continue Maryland's leadership in embracing innovative solutions for the benefit of all.