

Sponsor Testimony HB1371 - JPR.pdf

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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.

HB1371 - MVA - LOI – Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licens

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 27, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1371 – Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses -
Electronic Credentials (Maryland Mobile ID Enhancement Act)***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1371 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1371 would require rental companies offering motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer rentals to individuals to accept a mobile Driver's License (mDL) that can be verified by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The customer would have the option to present their physical license or their mDL.

The MVA has offered mDLs since May 2022 for Maryland license holders on the Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, or Samsung Wallet based on the International Standards Organization guidelines to ensure interoperability with other states and even other countries. The MVA limits one driver's license or state-issued identification card to one smartphone and one paired smart watch at a time.

While license holders must still carry their physical driver's license, there is a growing list of services or identification accepting mDLs, which offer better privacy protections for mDL users and only shares necessary information from a mDL record instead of the entire physical product. For example, mDLs can be used at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport checkpoints at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Reagan National Airport, and many other airports throughout the country. When a traveler shows their mDL at TSA checkpoints, the TSA agent sees only the information needed to verify a flier's identity instead of all the flier's information displayed on a physical license.

In November 2024, the MVA rolled out its own application called Mobile ID Check by MD. This service allows any business to download the application for free and use it to verify an individual holder is age 18+, 21+, or do a full mDL check depending on the service being offered. Only information needed for the service is shared with the business via the app reader, preserving the customer's confidential data, and the business can more securely confirm a product's authenticity. Initially rolled out at BWI restaurants and bars, this service is also available in Montgomery County for alcohol sales and other certain age restricted services.

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The MVA continues to look for new opportunities to grow its offerings Statewide. Continued expansion at airports around the country is expected with the most recent Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization mandating nationwide adaptation for mDL readers in the coming months and years.

HB 1371 would similarly extend the options for mDL to rental vehicle transactions in Maryland. Though drivers in the State must still carry their physical driver's license on their person while operating a motor vehicle, the adaptation of mDL verification will provide added services to the growing use for mDLs, provide more accurate and secure verification of driving privileges, and limit unnecessary information sharing with rental companies for qualified license holders regardless of their home state. This bill does not preclude other use cases being adopted.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1371.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090