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By: **Delegates Wood and Malone**  
Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2000  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Administration - Drivers' Licenses and Identification Cards**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying provisions under the Maryland Vehicle Law relating to  
4 the inclusion of photographs on drivers' licenses and identification cards;  
5 eliminating a requirement that an applicant for renewal of a driver's license  
6 appear in person; modifying a requirement pertaining to surrender of drivers'  
7 licenses; modifying the time period during which the Motor Vehicle  
8 Administration (MVA) may renew an expired driver's license without requiring  
9 a driving test; modifying a provision concerning renewal of drivers' licenses held  
10 by individuals who are absent from the State; making stylistic and technical  
11 changes and deleting an obsolete provision; and generally relating to the  
12 issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses and identification cards by the MVA  
13 under provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article - Transportation  
16 Section 12-301(a)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article - Transportation  
21 Section 12-301(g), 16-111.1(d) and (f), and 16-115  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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**Article - Transportation**

2 12-301.

3 (a) On application, the Administration shall issue an identification card to any  
4 individual who:

5 (1) Is a resident of this State;

6 (2) Does not have a driver's license;

7 (3) Presents a birth certificate or other proof of age and identity  
8 acceptable to the Administration; and

9 (4) Presents a completed application for an identification card on a form  
10 furnished by the Administration.

11 (g) (1) An identification card shall be:

12 (i) Of the size and design that the Administration requires; and

13 (ii) Tamperproof, to the extent possible.

14 (2) The card shall contain:

15 (i) The name and address of the applicant;

16 (ii) The birth date of the applicant;

17 (iii) The sex of the applicant;

18 (iv) A description of the applicant;

19 (v) A color photograph of the applicant taken by the procedure that  
20 the Administration requires[. Photographs issued to applicants under 21 years of age  
21 will be taken with the profile view. A fee, as established by the Administration, is  
22 required for the conversion to a regular full face photo identification card after the  
23 age of 21];

24 (vi) The expiration date of the identification card;

25 (vii) The signature of the applicant; and

26 (viii) The signature and seal of the issuing agent.

27 16-111.1.

28 (d) (1) [Each] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH  
29 noncommercial Class A, B, C, or M license issued by the Administration[:

1 (1) Shall] SHALL be of the size, design, and content that the  
2 Administration specifies[;].

3 (2) [Shall] A NONCOMMERCIAL CLASS A, B, C, OR M LICENSE SHALL  
4 include:

5 (i) The name and residence address of the licensee;

6 (ii) The date of birth of the licensee;

7 (iii) A description of the licensee, which shall include the height,  
8 weight, and sex of the licensee;

9 (iv) A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE APPLICANT THAT IS TAKEN IN  
10 ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCEDURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REQUIRES;

11 (V) The type or class of vehicles that the license authorizes the  
12 licensee to drive;

13 [(v)] (VI) The signature and seal of the issuing agent; and

14 [(vi)] (VII) A space for the signature of the licensee[; and

15 (3) Shall include:

16 (i) If the licensee is under the age of 21 years, a profile photograph  
17 of the licensee; or

18 (ii) If the licensee is at least 21 years old, a frontal photograph of  
19 the licensee].

20 (f) (1) Only one current driver's license may be issued by the  
21 Administration to and held by any individual at any one time.

22 (2) Before issuing a license, the Administration shall require the  
23 applicant to surrender any [other] license issued to the applicant by any OTHER  
24 jurisdiction.

25 16-115.

26 (a) (1) A license issued under this title to a driver at least 21 years old shall  
27 expire on the birth date of the licensee in the fifth year following the issuance of the  
28 license.

29 (2) A license issued under this title to a driver under the age of 21 years  
30 shall expire 60 days after the driver's 21st birthday.

31 (3) A license is renewable on the presentation [in person] of an  
32 application, the payment of the renewal fee required by § 16-111.1 of this subtitle,  
33 and satisfactory completion of the examination required or authorized by subsection  
34 (h) of this section:

1 (i) Within 6 months before its expiration; or

2 (ii) When a driver qualifies for a corrected license issued under §  
3 16-114.1(c) of this subtitle.

4 (b) At least 60 days before a license expires, the Administration shall mail to  
5 each licensee, at the last address of the licensee shown in the records of the  
6 Administration, notice of the date on which the license will expire.

7 (c) The Administration may renew a license within [6 months] 1 YEAR after  
8 the expiration date without requiring a driving test.

9 (d) (1) A license held by a member of the armed forces of the United States  
10 who is absent from this State on active service in the armed forces of the United  
11 States, or a dependent of the member who is residing with the member outside the  
12 State, shall remain in full force and effect during such absence.

13 (2) The license also shall remain in effect, if it would otherwise have  
14 expired under this section, for a period of 30 days following the date of the licensee's  
15 return to this State, or the member's discharge or separation from active service:

16 (i) If the licensee has in the licensee's immediate possession,  
17 together with the licensee's driver's license, papers indicating the member's active  
18 service outside this State or the member's discharge or separation; and

19 (ii) If the license is not otherwise suspended, revoked, or canceled  
20 under this title during the 30-day period.

21 (e) If a licensee is absent from this State for cause, other than as provided in  
22 subsection (d) OF THIS SECTION, and is unable to renew his license in the manner  
23 required by this section, the licensee may renew by mail to the Administration. The  
24 renewal application shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee and a statement  
25 giving the reason for and the expected length of the absence. On receipt of the  
26 application, the [Administrator shall] ADMINISTRATION MAY issue a regular license  
27 [and if the renewed license is one that requires] WHICH BEARS a photo [it shall, in  
28 place of the photo, bear the] OR A notation that it is valid without a photo until 15  
29 days after the licensee first returns to this State.

30 (f) An individual may not drive a motor vehicle on any highway in this State  
31 if the license issued to him under this title has expired.

32 (g) An individual may not attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in  
33 this State if the license issued to the individual under this title has expired.

34 (h) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the  
35 Administration shall require every individual applying for renewal of a driver's  
36 license to pass a vision test as prescribed by the [Administrator] ADMINISTRATION.

1           (2)     (i)     The [Administrator] ADMINISTRATION shall accept a  
2 certification of acceptable visual acuity from a licensed physician or optometrist  
3 instead of requiring the actual test provided for in this subsection.

4                   (ii)     The examination for which certification is made shall take place  
5 within 12 months of the date of application for renewal.

6           (3)     (i)     If the Administration has reason to believe that an individual is  
7 a safety hazard by reason of a vision deficiency, the Administration may require the  
8 vision test provided for in this subsection at a time other than renewal of a driver's  
9 license.

10                   (ii)     The Administration may adopt [rules and] regulations to  
11 implement the provisions of this subsection.

12     (i)     [Until September 1, 1993, a driver's license issued before July 1, 1988 to a  
13 driver under the age of 21 years that expires before the driver's 21st birthday may be  
14 renewed, on payment of a fee established by the Administration, for a period not to  
15 exceed 60 days after the licensee's 21st birthday.

16     (j)]     Before the expiration of a driver's license, if the Administration has reason  
17 to believe that an individual is not a safety hazard, but the individual is unable to  
18 pass a required knowledge test or vision test, the Administration may extend the  
19 individual's privilege to drive for a period not to exceed 90 days.

20     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2000.