HOUSE BILL 1121

By: Delegates R. Jones, Brooks, Foley, Hill, Patterson, and Proctor

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 15, 2022

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Registration Plates—Notation for Autism Spectrum
Motor Vehicle Administration—Voluntary Developmental Disability Self-Disclosure Envelope

FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the driver's license, identification card, or registration plate of an applicant who indicates on an application for a driver's license, an identification card, or a vehicle registration that the applicant is on the autism spectrum includes a notation specifying that the applicant is on the autism spectrum; requiring an application for a driver's license, an identification card, or a vehicle registration to allow an applicant to indicate that the applicant is on the autism spectrum; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to create a voluntary developmental disability self-disclosure envelope; and generally relating to driver's licenses, identification cards, and registration plates of individuals on the autism spectrum.

BY renumbering

Article Transportation
Section 13–410(d), (e), (g), and (h), respectively
to be Section 13–410(e), (f), (h), and (i), respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strike-out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.
BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article—Transportation
Section 13–410(d) and 13–410(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article—Transportation
Section 13–410(b) and 13–410(f) 16–118.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That Section(s) 13–410(d), (e), (g), and (h), respectively, of Article—Transportation of the
Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 13–410(e), (f), (h), and (i),
respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
as follows:

Article—Transportation

12–306.

(A) The application for a driver’s license, an identification card,
or a moped operator’s permit shall allow an applicant to indicate that
the applicant is on the autism spectrum.

(B) The administration shall ensure that the driver’s license,
identification card, or moped operator’s permit of an applicant who has
indicated that the applicant is on the autism spectrum on the
application for the driver’s license, identification card, or moped
operator’s permit includes a notation specifying that the applicant is
on the autism spectrum.

13–403.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the owner of a
vehicle subject to registration under this subtitle shall apply to the administration for the
registration of the vehicle in a manner that the administration requires.
(2) The application for registration of a low speed vehicle shall be made by electronic transmission under § 13–610 of this title.

(b) The application shall contain:

(1) Contain the information that the Administration reasonably requires to determine if the vehicle is entitled to registration; AND

(2) Allow an applicant to indicate that the applicant is on the Autism Spectrum.

(b)(1) Each registration plate shall display:

(i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued; and

(ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

(b)(2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

(d) The Administration shall ensure that the registration plate of an applicant registering a vehicle under this title includes a notation specifying that the applicant is on the Autism Spectrum if the applicant indicates on the application for the registration plate that the applicant is on the Autism Spectrum.

(f)(G) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection [(d)](E) of this section, the Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13–618 and 13–619 of this title.

(a) (1) The Administration shall develop [a form for] a voluntary developmental disability self–disclosure card AND A VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE.

(2) [A] THE voluntary developmental disability self–disclosure card AND THE VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE shall each:

(i) Be approximately the same size as a driver’s license;

(ii) Be printed on blue paper OR BLUE STURDY MATERIAL;
(iii) Include space for an individual to provide details on a developmental disability; and

(iv) Include written guidance on effective communication between law enforcement officers and people with developmental disabilities.

(3) In developing the [form] DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE CARD AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE required by this subsection, the Administration shall consult with the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and at least one independent organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, the Administration shall make a voluntary developmental disability self–disclosure card available to any individual of driving age who requests one.

[(2)] (II) If an individual who requests a voluntary developmental disability self–disclosure card is a minor, the Administration shall provide the card to the individual’s parent or guardian.

(2) (I) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL MAKE A VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE AVAILABLE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OF DRIVING AGE WHO REQUESTS ONE.

(II) IF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUESTS A VOLUNTARY SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE IS A MINOR, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE THE ENVELOPE TO THE INDIVIDUAL’S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

(c) [Except as required by § 16–118 of this subtitle, the Administration may not maintain any records relating to the issuance of a voluntary developmental disability self–disclosure card] THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DEVELOP INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SELF–DISCLOSURE CARD AND THE VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL SELF–DISCLOSURE ENVELOPE THAT ARE:

(1) WRITTEN IN PLAIN LANGUAGE;

(2) PUBLISHED ON THE ADMINISTRATION’S WEBSITE;

(3) POSTED AT ALL MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION LOCATIONS;

(4) INCLUDED IN THE DRIVER’S EDUCATION CURRICULUM; AND
(5) Made available to all individuals during the process of applying for or renewing a driver’s license.

(D) In developing the informational materials required by subsection (c) of this section, the administration shall consult with at least one organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.