

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 218

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Laws – Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards – Temporary Renewal

This departmental bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a temporary renewal for a driver’s license or identification card for up to two years for certain applicants. The bill’s authorization does not apply to commercial driver’s licenses, and MVA is prohibited from issuing a temporary renewal for those credential holders. MVA must adopt regulations to implement the bill’s requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues may shift depending on the number of credential holders who are granted a temporary renewal; however, any such impact is expected to be minimal. TTF expenditures are not materially affected; however, MVA may realize administrative efficiencies due to fewer in-person transactions during certain renewal cycles.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary: MVA is authorized to issue a temporary renewal for an identification card or driver’s license that extends the expiration date for a period of up to two years for an applicant who:

- has the appropriate documentation required by federal law;
- has a photograph on file with MVA that will not be 16 years old (or older) by the expiration date of the temporary renewal; and
- has an identification card or driver's license that was issued for a full term.

MVA may only make a temporary renewal available to:

- an active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States (or a spouse or dependent of the member);
- a member of the Foreign Service of the United States (or a spouse or dependent of the member);
- a Maryland resident who is a student studying outside the State;
- a Maryland resident who is temporarily residing outside the State for at least six months;
- a Maryland resident who holds an identification card or driver's license that would have otherwise expired during a state of emergency declared by the Governor; or
- any other Maryland resident who meets any requirements approved by MVA.

Current Law/Background: Identification cards and driver's licenses are valid for up to eight years; MVA is authorized to extend either of those credentials for up to 90 days.

MVA advises that it is seeking to create more flexibility for customers in the wake of its experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. MVA further advises that its authority under current law to extend driver's licenses or identification cards for up to 90 days may be inadequate in some circumstances (*e.g.*, during extended states of emergency such as the one declared in response to COVID-19). The bill is intended to provide service continuity in such times of emergency and to reduce administrative burdens on customers who would otherwise be unable to renew during those circumstances.

MVA also notes that the bill may smooth the number of credential holders applying for renewal during periods when many more individuals than usual are due for renewal. For instance, MVA notes that the number of credential holders scheduled for renewal in certain periods can be as much as 10 times greater than in low-volume periods. As a result, the flexibility granted by the bill may reduce wait times in many MVA branches if some customers opt for temporary, online renewal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 11, 2022
fnu2/ljm Third Reader - February 3, 2022

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Vehicle Laws – Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards –
Temporary Renewal

BILL NUMBER: SB 218

PREPARED BY: MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration
(Dept./Agency)

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

 X WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

 WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS