

HOUSE BILL 1481

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5lr3473

By: **Delegates Hill, Kaufman, and Patterson**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disability Services – Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program to provide
4 adapted vehicles to individuals who require a wheelchair for mobility; requiring the
5 Department of Disabilities to implement and administer the Program, solicit certain
6 donations for the Program, study the impacts of the Program, and report on the
7 Program on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Adapted Vehicle
8 Access Pilot Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Human Services

11 Section 7–1201 and 7–1202 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Adapted
12 Vehicle Access Pilot Program”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Human Services**

18 **SUBTITLE 12. ADAPTED VEHICLE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 **7–1201.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
21 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (B) "ADAPTED VEHICLE" MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN
2 MODIFIED TO BE OPERATED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUIRES A WHEELCHAIR FOR
3 MOBILITY.

4 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES.

5 (D) "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

6 (1) REQUIRES A WHEELCHAIR FOR MOBILITY;

7 (2) IS A LICENSED DRIVER; AND

8 (3) IS QUALIFIED TO DRIVE AN ADAPTED VEHICLE.

9 (E) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ADAPTED VEHICLE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.

10 7-1202.

11 (A) THERE IS AN ADAPTED VEHICLE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.

12 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ADAPTED VEHICLES TO
13 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED BY
14 THE DEPARTMENT THAT PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADAPTED VEHICLES.

15 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE
16 PROGRAM.

17 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO
18 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND SHALL PRIORITIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE
19 IN AREAS WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

20 (E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT DONATIONS OF VEHICLES,
21 VEHICLE MODIFICATION AND ADAPTATION SERVICES, AND FUNDS FROM
22 INDIVIDUALS OR PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CORPORATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
23 PROGRAM.

24 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND SPEND
25 FEDERAL FUNDS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE
26 PROGRAM.

27 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL STUDY THE IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAM ON
28 THE RECIPIENTS' INDEPENDENCE, MOBILITY, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND
29 DEPENDENCY ON PUBLIC SUBSIDIES.

1 **(G) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
2 **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
3 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

4 **(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
5 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

6 **(I) THE NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF VEHICLES UNDER THE**
7 **PROGRAM;**

8 **(II) INFORMATION REGARDING HOW THE PROGRAM HAS**
9 **AFFECTED THE RECIPIENTS' INDEPENDENCE, MOBILITY, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND**
10 **DEPENDENCY ON PUBLIC SUBSIDIES;**

11 **(III) INFORMATION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF**
12 **VEHICLES, MODIFICATION AND ADAPTATION SERVICES, AND FUNDS; AND**

13 **(IV) A RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER THE PROGRAM SHOULD**
14 **BE EXTENDED OR EXPANDED.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September
17 30, 2030, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.