

Chapter 393

(House Bill 1481)

AN ACT concerning

Disability Services – Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing the Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program to provide adapted vehicles to individuals who require a ~~wheelchair for mobility~~ mobility aid; requiring the Department of Disabilities to implement and administer the Program, ~~solicit request, apply for, and facilitate~~ certain donations for the Program, study the impacts of the Program, and report on the Program on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

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

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services**SUBTITLE 12. ADAPTED VEHICLE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.****7–1201.**

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

(B) “ADAPTED VEHICLE” MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO BE OPERATED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUIRES A ~~WHEELCHAIR FOR MOBILITY~~ MOBILITY AID.

(C) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES.

(D) “DONATION” MEANS THE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY, SERVICES, OR FUNDS TO THE PROGRAM OR AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.

~~(D)~~ (E) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

- (1) REQUIRES A ~~WHEELCHAIR FOR MOBILITY~~ MOBILITY AID;
- (2) IS A LICENSED DRIVER; AND
- (3) IS QUALIFIED TO DRIVE AN ADAPTED VEHICLE.

~~(E)~~ (F) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ADAPTED VEHICLE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM.

7-1202.

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

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

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

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

(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ~~SOLELY~~ REQUEST, APPLY FOR, AND FACILITATE DONATIONS OF VEHICLES, VEHICLE MODIFICATION AND ADAPTATION SERVICES, AND FUNDS FROM INDIVIDUALS OR PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CORPORATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

(I) THE NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF VEHICLES UNDER THE PROGRAM;

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

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

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

(3) IN REPORTING THE DATA REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO ANONYMIZE THE DATA TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF RECIPIENTS.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.