

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 23
(Delegate Woods)
Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors

This bill prohibits the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) from requiring a parent or legal guardian of a minor 15 years of age or older to cosign or be present at the time of submission of the minor's application for an identification (ID) card. MVA must adopt regulations establishing acceptable forms of identification that establish proof of residency for such a minor, including specified documents. If the minor is unable to provide documentation that satisfies requirements of the federal REAL ID Act, MVA may issue an ID card that is noncompliant with the Act. The bill's requirements may not be construed to limit MVA's authority to require documentation necessary to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act, including documentation establishing proof of residency.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations. MVA can implement the bill with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: On application, MVA must issue an ID card to any applicant who:

- is a resident of the State;
- does not have a driver's license;

- presents a birth certificate or other acceptable proof of age and identity;
- provides satisfactory documentary evidence that the applicant has lawful status;
- provides satisfactory documentary evidence that (1) the applicant has a valid Social Security number by presenting the Social Security card (or specified documents if the card is not available) or (2) the applicant is not eligible for a Social Security number; and
- presents a completed application for an ID card on the appropriate form.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1539 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2026

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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510