

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 646 (Delegates Guyton and Korman)
Environment and Transportation

Driver Licensing – Self-Reporting of Medical Conditions

This bill establishes that, for driver’s license holders or applicants who self-report a diagnosis of certain medical conditions (as already required), a medical provider’s report or physician referral (as needed) must be the primary factor in the Motor Vehicle Administration’s (MVA) decision on whether to issue, refuse, or cancel the driver’s license – except when law enforcement files a request for reexamination of the licensee or applicant. Also, in its discretion, MVA may require additional testing of a licensee or an applicant who provides notice of such a diagnosis. However, MVA has to establish an expedited process for the issuance of a learner’s instructional permit to an individual (1) whose license has been suspended or canceled due to a diagnosis of a medical condition; (2) whose medical condition has improved such that the individual is medically qualified to obtain a driver’s license; and (3) who is required to complete a driver education program or take a driver knowledge or skills examination. A learner’s instructional permit issued under the expedited process must be valid for a reasonable period – affording sufficient time for the individual to complete the necessary driver education program or take the necessary driver knowledge or skills examination.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not anticipated to be materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MVA may appoint a [Medical Advisory Board](#) of qualified physicians and optometrists to enable it to comply properly with the relevant provisions of the Transportation Article regarding the physical and mental condition of individuals who seek to drive on highways in the State. MVA may refer to the board, for an advisory opinion, the case of any licensee or applicant for a license, if MVA has good cause to believe that the driving of a vehicle by the individual would be contrary to public safety and welfare because of an existing or suspected mental or physical disability.

Generally, the records of the Medical Advisory Board (1) are confidential; (2) may be disclosed only on court order; and (3) may be used only to determine the qualifications of an individual to drive. However, MVA may use information in its records for the purpose of driver safety research, provided that personal information is not published or disclosed. MVA may contract with third parties to assist with driver safety research. A person may not use these records for any other purpose.

Learner's Instructional Permits

A [learner's instructional permit](#) must be held for a certain amount of time depending on the characteristics of the credential holder. For example, an adult age 25 or older who holds a learner's permit must wait at least 45 days before a provisional license can be issued.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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