

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 87

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

Judicial Proceedings

**Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards, Licenses, and Permits -
Repeal of Color Photograph Requirement**

This departmental bill repeals the requirement that the photograph included on an identification card, a driver's license, or a moped operator's permit issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) be in color.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures decrease by approximately \$114,000 in FY 2027 and \$152,000 annually thereafter due to reduced printing costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	(114,000)	(152,000)	(152,000)	(152,000)	(152,000)
Net Effect	\$114,000	\$152,000	\$152,000	\$152,000	\$152,000

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

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

Current Law: As part of its duties to supply motor vehicle services to the citizens of Maryland, MVA issues driver's licenses to individuals for various classifications of motor

vehicles. MVA is also responsible for issuing identification cards to Maryland residents when they do not have a driver's license and meet other specified requirements. Among other requirements, an identification card, driver's license, or a moped operator's permit issued by MVA must contain a color photograph of the applicant.

Background: According to MVA, when it redesigned its driver's licenses and identification cards to meet federal REAL ID standards, the color photograph was moved to the back of the product and was shrunk to be a smaller image. MVA advises that, since that change took place, it has realized that a color photograph does not need to be included as modern design standards and scanner technology have rendered a color photograph obsolete. Further, as security features built into the document to counter fraud have made it more expensive to include a color photograph, MVA notes that the removal of that requirement is expected to reduce unnecessary production costs.

State Expenditures: MVA advises the elimination of the requirement for a color photograph on an identification card, driver's license, and a moped operator's permit reduces its costs for certain materials (*e.g.*, color cartridges) by an estimated \$152,000 annually. Accordingly, TTF expenditures decrease by approximately \$114,000 in fiscal 2027, due to the bill's October 1, 2026 effective date, and \$152,000 annually thereafter. Other programming changes or alterations to printing systems necessary to implement the bill can be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 248 (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Transportation) - Environment and Transportation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2026
gj/rld

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards,
Licenses, and Permits - Repeal of Color Photograph Requirement

BILL NUMBER: SB 87

PREPARED BY: Jessica Mettle

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

☒ 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

Small businesses do not manufacture, design, or regulate these cards, nor do they typically have contracts for their production (those are usually held by large national vendors like Thales, IDEMIA, etc.).