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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB898
Vehicle Laws – Rental Vehicles – Driver’s License Verification and Records

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 898, Vehicle Laws – Rental Vehicles – Driver’s License Verification and Records. Current Maryland Law requires the lessor of a rented vehicle or their agent to inspect the renter’s license to be certain it is valid and appropriate for the vehicle being leased; SB 898 allows a rental company, under certain circumstances, to use electronic or digital means to complete the inspection.

BWI-Marshall Airport currently uses CLEAR, to process airline passengers through security lines by means of biometric screening. SB 898 would allow a rental car company to enter into an agreement with such a company allowing their clients to reserve a rental car online and avoid lines when getting the car at the airport. Membership into the rental car master program would be required.

Hertz has entered into an exclusive arrangement with CLEAR, the company whose technology is presently being used at BWI to screen passengers. Hertz is offering the use of this technology to its Gold Club members as a convenience by allowing them to reserve a rental car online and avoid lines at the airport. The customer presents a picture of his/her license to Hertz online and the company verifies that the license is the person’s and that it is not expired. Hertz checks with the MVA in the State where the license was issued initially and annually thereafter to ensure the license remains valid. When the person arrives at their destination, they use the CLEAR technology which verifies that it is indeed the person and pick up their rental car.

SB898 will streamline the process for car rentals by allowing the inspection to be done by electronic or digital means and for the person to obtain the rental without making direct contact with the renter.

I respectfully request a favorable report for SB898.