
February 8, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 178 – Vehicle Laws - Disabled Veteran Registration
Plates – Issuance***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 178 as an opportunity to expand specialty plates to deserving customers in recognition of their service and providing helpful indications of potential negative health effects incurred by their service.

As introduced, House Bill 178 will allow veterans with service-connected disabilities between 50% and 90% as identified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain a “Disabled Veterans” plate without the international symbol of access. While customers who are otherwise eligible for the symbol that would provide for handicap parking spaces, for example, can still obtain such a plate with relevant documentation, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) already has the ability to issue a second set of these plates without that symbol to 100% disabled veterans under existing law and can expand the number of eligible applicants for such plates under House Bill 178.

The MVA worked with the Maryland General Assembly during the 2023 legislative session to ensure that parking access was not granted under the expansion of eligibility for disabled veterans tags under House Bill 178. House Bill 178 offers disabled veterans who do not qualify for the handicap placard with the opportunity to be recognized and distinguished for their service and sacrifice.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 178 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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