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**SB277: Vehicle Laws – Driver's Licenses, Learner's
Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 6, 2024

Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We support SB277 because it will expand the pathway whereby certain individuals, with limited financial means, may obtain an identification card without paying a fee.

The law currently states that a fee is not required for applicants who are over the age of 65, legally blind, has a loss of a limb, is physically disabled and reliant on mobility aids, and has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a “major life activity” as defined by the ADA. With this bill, the list of qualifying conditions, for a free ID, would be expanded to other groups, including youth and juveniles who are connected with the department of Juvenile Services, is a participant in a DHS program, or is currently under the care of the Maryland Department of Health. This expanded availability would reach some of our most vulnerable citizens, providing them with the opportunity to obtain identification they may not otherwise be able to afford. Identification is needed for obtaining jobs, travel, access to healthcare, and many other aspects of life. For these reasons, we ask the committee for a favorable report on SB277.

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