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April 1, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1539 – Transportation - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1539 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 1539 would require the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to allow minors aged 15 years or older to obtain a Maryland Identification (ID) Card without a parent or legal guardian being present.

Customers who are seeking to obtain a Maryland ID Card must provide Proof of Address to comply with federal REAL ID requirements. For minors, the most common means to satisfy residency requirements is by having the parent or legal guardian certify that the minor lives at the parent or legal guardian’s residence and share their own ID card or driver’s license. Typically, minors otherwise lack alternative forms of proof acceptable under United States Department of Homeland Security regulations.

The MVA is committed to reducing barriers for residents to obtain ID cards and driver’s licenses. Last year, the MVA eliminated ID card fees for certain vulnerable populations including youth under the care of the Department of Juvenile Services, youth between 15 and 20 years of age who are participants in Department of Human Services programs, and unhoused youth. The MVA will continue to work with the bill sponsor to ensure a satisfactory resolution for all parties.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1539.

Respectfully submitted,

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