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February 27, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1371 – Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses -  
Electronic Credentials (Maryland Mobile ID Enhancement Act)***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1371 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1371 would require rental companies offering motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer rentals to individuals to accept a mobile Driver's License (mDL) that can be verified by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The customer would have the option to present their physical license or their mDL.

The MVA has offered mDLs since May 2022 for Maryland license holders on the Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, or Samsung Wallet based on the International Standards Organization guidelines to ensure interoperability with other states and even other countries. The MVA limits one driver's license or state-issued identification card to one smartphone and one paired smart watch at a time.

While license holders must still carry their physical driver's license, there is a growing list of services or identification accepting mDLs, which offer better privacy protections for mDL users and only shares necessary information from a mDL record instead of the entire physical product. For example, mDLs can be used at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport checkpoints at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Reagan National Airport, and many other airports throughout the country. When a traveler shows their mDL at TSA checkpoints, the TSA agent sees only the information needed to verify a flier's identity instead of all of the flier's information on a physical license.

In November 2024, the MVA rolled out its own application called Mobile ID Check by MD. This service allows any business to download the application for free and use it to verify an individual holder is age 18+, 21+, or do a full mDL check depending on the service being offered. Only information needed for the service is shared with the business via the app reader, preserving the customer's confidential data, and the business can more securely confirm a product's authenticity. Initially rolled out at BWI restaurants and bars, this service is also available in Montgomery County for alcohol sales and other certain age restricted services.

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The MVA continues to look for new opportunities to grow its offerings Statewide. Continued expansion at airports around the country is expected with the most recent Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization mandating nationwide adaptation for mDL readers in the coming months and years.

HB 1371 would similarly extend the options for mDL to rental vehicle transactions in Maryland. Though drivers in the State must still carry their physical driver's license on their person while operating a motor vehicle, the adaptation of mDL verification will provide added services to the growing use for mDLs, provide more accurate and secure verification of driving privileges, and limit unnecessary information sharing with rental companies for qualified license holders regardless of their home state. This bill does not preclude other use cases being adopted.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1371.

Respectfully submitted,

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