



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

February 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

RE: House Bill 707, *Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)*

Support

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I am writing to express my support for House Bill 707, *Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)*. The legislation would require that certain applications for a license, identification card, or moped operator's permit provide the option for an applicant to choose to indicate on the document the applicant's nonapparent disability. The term can be defined as a physical, mental, or neurological condition that is not easily apparent or detected by others. The bill directs the Motor Vehicle Administration to include a certain notation of the disability and requires the Administration to do public outreach efforts about its availability. Further, the bill includes a prohibition concerning the disclosure of certain information about an applicant.

An increasing number of states are considering measures to offer an applicant seeking a driver's license or government-issued ID card the option of adding a discrete marker identifying the individual as having a nonapparent or invisible disability. The symbol would be recognized by first responders as an indicator of an individual who may need an accommodation to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to a potentially confrontational interaction.

At the local level, Montgomery County Department of Police has recognized the issue of invisible disabilities by working collaboratively with Pathfinders for Autism, a Maryland-based organization founded by parents of children with autism, on a traffic stop program called the Blue Envelope Initiative. Police know about the traffic stop toolkit that includes an envelope listing the steps to follow on one side, and tips about autism for the officer of the other side. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower organization is another non-government entity with a growing global campaign to raise awareness and support for individuals with invisible disabilities. While these efforts are laudable, they are not enough.

I am pleased to support HB 707 – *Eric's ID Law* – named for Montgomery County resident, Eric Carpenter-Grantham. Colorado and Alaska have passed similar nonapparent disability identification laws. I would urge Maryland to follow their lead, and respectfully request the Committee's adoption of a favorable report on House Bill 707.