



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB0707**

February 13, 2025

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

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

**POSITION: Letter of Information**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) would like to provide a **letter of information** on House Bill (HB) 707 - Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law).

HB 707 would provide individuals the option to notate on their licenses, identification cards, or moped operator's permits that they have a nonapparent disability, be that developmental or intellectual. HB 707 would require the administration to conduct outreach and engagement regarding the availability of the notation. The legislation also provides for protections for individuals who elect the notation to not be penalized by insurance providers.

Proponents of HB 707 believe that the bill will provide greater protections during interactions with law enforcement officers. This is because nonapparent disabilities are not immediately perceptible by officers; therefore, self-identification may limit confusion or escalation amongst officers by immediately communicating the challenges faced by or accommodations needed by a member of the public.

Conversely, disability rights advocates who are hesitant towards HB 707 argue that notation may result in individuals living with nonapparent disabilities being unnecessarily judged, discriminated, or defined by a constant public disclosure of their disability. Additionally, the selective notation of disabilities may result in individuals, who choose not to self-identify, being disbelieved by law enforcement officers in encounters where they notify the officer of their disability. Finally, discretionary identification of nonapparent disabilities could transcend into required identification, should law enforcement prefer and advocate for the expansion of the proposed notation system. This may foster further opportunities for discrimination and identification of marginalized identities under the pretext of public safety.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request consideration of its **letter of information** on HB 707, believing the benefits and drawbacks of the legislation must be adequately accounted for. The BCA believes it may be suitable to establish a workgroup to survey the perception, concerns, and needs of various disability advocacy organizations prior to the establishment of the notation system.