

March 12, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1533 – Motor Vehicle Administration Records - Access to Digital Photographic Images and Signatures - Baltimore City

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1533 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1533 requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to provide access to certain records to the Special Investigations Unit of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Under the Maryland Public Information Act¹ and Article - Transportation §12-111(b)(5) and (6), photos and signatures are considered "personal information" and are not disclosable as public records, subject to limited exceptions.² These exceptions follow a secure process to apply for access to this information and must be pre-approved. Expanding access to additional local jurisdictional agencies may lead to further encroachment by other jurisdictions. Broad disclosure presents additional risks for the individuals whose photos are retrieved, though existing protocols are in place to attempt to mitigate that risk.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1533.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

¹ See GP §4-101.

² Those exceptions allowing disclosure can be divided into three primary categories: disclosure to criminal justice agencies, to the individual and their designees, and for child support enforcement.