

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Vice Chair, Ways and Means
Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee

Chair

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2025

HB707 - Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 707, Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)**.

Eric's ID Law would create a voluntary designation on a Maryland license, identification card, or moped operator's permit for those with non-apparent disabilities, such as intellectual and developmental disabilities. The bill aims to enhance the safety of people with disabilities and provide an additional resource for law enforcement and first responders, helping them recognize and respond appropriately to individuals with non-apparent disabilities during interactions.

In 2013, Ethan Saylor, a young man with a developmental disability, was killed by off-duty police officers who used excessive force to remove Ethan from a movie theatre. As a result of Ethan's tragic death, the Ethan Saylor Alliance was passed in April 2015. The Ethan Saylor Alliance aims to enhance training for law enforcement and public service entities regarding the specific needs of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Building on this critical and ongoing work, Eric's ID Law would allow those with an intellectual or developmental disability to have an extra resource readily available when interacting with law enforcement and other first responders. This designation would allow law enforcement and other first responders to recognize that they would need to interact differently with an individual with this designation. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 707, Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins