



## House Bill 707

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: February 13, 2025

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 707. This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to allow an applicant to indicate a “nonapparent disability” when applying for a license, identification card, or moped operator’s permit. Additionally, the bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commissions (MPTSC) to provide training for local law enforcement agencies on recognizing the indicator and interacting with these individuals.

Anytime public safety officials are interacting with a member of the public, it is imperative that they have as many indicators as possible for assessing the needs of an individual. More opportunities to recognize a “nonapparent disability” will promote the even greater likelihood that an interaction with law enforcement or a call for service will not unfold in a harmful way for either party. Having to guess what might be going on from ambiguous signs makes an already, sometimes, tense situation harder to navigate. The option for someone with a nonapparent disability to clearly identify their developmental or intellectual disability to an officer, will undoubtedly enable public safety officials to handle the situation with the appropriate care.

Currently law enforcement agencies are already providing training to ensure officers can recognize a number of unapparent or incommunicable challenges a member of the public might be experiencing. These difficulties can be caused by mental crisis, drug use, physical injury, and in limited instances, developmental or intellectual disabilities. While the training provided under the bill is likely to be duplicative, reinforcing current standards can be useful. Additionally, the very clear indication on a license of a nonapparent disability will enable officers to expeditiously identify an individual's needs in situations where they might not be obvious, or the individual is unable to communicate them.

Law enforcement readily put themselves in circumstances where the needs of an individual might not be obvious or visible even to the trained eye. HB 707 wisely targets this and provides important resources to promote best outcomes in sometimes difficult encounters. For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 707.