

January 22, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 179 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption  
- Unemployable Disabled Veterans***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 179 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 179 would extend registration fee exemptions from the existing 100% disabled veteran requirement to veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Currently, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) processes exemptions for disabled veterans and offers free registration and free “Disabled Veterans” license plate sets to eligible customers. The MVA requires a customer to present a letter from the VA confirming the customer’s 100% disabled status to issue the license plate set. Under the requirements of this bill, the MVA would be able to accept a VA letter confirming those individuals who have been granted an unemployable rating and accordingly qualify for exemptions from vehicle registration fees. Unlike 100% disabled veterans, this proposal will limit eligible vehicles to just one personally used vehicle that is owned by or leased to an unemployable veteran. The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families indicated there are just under 4,000 Marylanders that would qualify for this exemption.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 179.

Respectfully submitted,

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