To: Chairman Will C. Smith and The Judicial Proceedings Committee From:

Linda K. Carpenter-Grantham (Mother of Eric Blessed Carpenter Grantham)

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BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent *Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW"*. (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)

Position: I would like to request this BILL be favorable to have the OPTION to select this voluntary choice for Maryland State ID.

Written Testimony for Linda K. Carpenter-Grantham, Mother of 20-Year Old son Eric Blessed Carpenter Grantham who is highly functioning autistic for future law for AKA "ERIC's ID LAW" for people with invisible disabilities. Such as Autism, Mental Health, Hearing Impaired and ALL Hidden Disabilities.

Bill Number: SB0618

TITLE: Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW"

I am a single mother of an amazing 20-Year old son Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham who is highly functioning autistic. We also have our own non-profit titled: THE BLUE RUNWAY FOR AUTISM. We partner with MACY's and Law Enforcement to host fashion show for people with autism/special needs. We also have our "DRESSED IN BLUE" workshop where we engage with the police on interacting with a person with invisible disabilities like autism, mental health and hearing impaired/special needs.

When George Floyd was killed. I realize that I have an African American son with an invisible disability that cannot be seen. Should my son be stopped by Law Enforcement could be very concerning for his life. There is always the possibility that my son may not be able to follow the command that would be given to him at that time. Depending on his ability to comprehend fully and being fearful at that time. Eric also has sensory issues, which means his hearing, touch, taste and smell are heightened.

This means that if other high pitch noises, lights, smells and touching could redirect his attention away from the command that is being requested at that time. Eric also has heart disease. He had heart bypass surgery April 13, 2016 and He has asthma. Whenever he gets

high stress levels he will complain of chest pains, heart skipping beats and sometimes feeling a little short of breath. This is also concerning should he be stopped by Law Enforcement and become fearful.

When creating a scenario for Eric to understand telling him if Law Enforcement should stop him. Put your hands up don't reach for your cell phone to call me (his first instinct is to call me for everything) YELL OUT! – I HAVE AUTISM! YELL OUT CALL MY MOTHER! – YELL OUT MY CELL PHONE NUMBER! – Eric's reply was "Mom – I can do that! But the police would shoot my friends"

Eric started to cry. He said with such urgency "Mom – We Gotta DO SOMETHING! Because Eric has always had a passion for GOD and Politics. He asked me to take him to congress to speak with former House Speaker Mrs. Nancy Pelosi. He said he wanted to talk with her regarding laws that would protect himself and his friends that have autism/invisible disabilities. I told him I am very proud of him and that I would do my best to get him there.

Eric said "Mom! I have an idea." Can I put the logo on the ID and Driver's license for Autism, Mental Health, Hearing Impaired and the Butterfly for Hidden Disabilities. We drew the art work of the (A-for Autism, Silhouette of the Head with a lighter green heart, Ear with sound bars, Butterfly with Black Border and distinctive colors in the wings that represent the colors for invisible disabilities in the ribbon. BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent AKA "ERIC's ID LAW" (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)

I contacted Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office. We meet with the Senator March 29, 2023 and he loved the idea. He appointed his legislative aid Ijeoma Egekeze to assist us with writing the proposal for the future **BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses**, **Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW**". I contacted Prince George's County States Attorney Aisha Braveboy to meet with her March 21, 2023 and hear what she thought about "ERIC's ID LAW". She was very supportive. She stated "ERIC's ID LAW" could be used in her line of work.

I also contacted Prince George's Sheriff John Carr, Montgomery County Sheriff Maxwell Uy, Montgomery County Chief of Police Marcus Jones, Montgomery County Councilmembers Will Jawando, Kate Stewart, Andrew Friedson, Evan Glass and Congressman David Trone. They were ALL in agreement with "ERIC's ID LAW".

I contacted our Maryland State Senator Will C. Smith to request a meeting with him regarding this becoming a BILL. We met on July 10, 2023 Senator Smith was very positive about this becoming a BILL. Eric explained to him why this was very important, that He and his friends that are people of color and have autism they need to have something on their

ID that states they have an invisible disability should they be stopped by Law Enforcement. Eric explained to the Senator how concerned he is for all people but especially people of color being stopped by Law Enforcement and having autism/invisible disabilities. How many people of color with invisible disabilities are being hurt, harmed and killed by Law Enforcement.

Senator Will C. Smith was excited to inform me and Eric that he would write the BILL for BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC'S ID LAW".

I scheduled a meeting with Ms. Jessica Mettles for May 18, 2023 at 11am. At Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to discuss the possibilities of MVA applying "ERIC's ID LAW Logos to the Maryland State ID and Driver's License. The attendees were Linda Carpenter-Grantham, Eric Carpenter-Grantham, Prince Georges County Sheriff John Carr, MVA Staff Jessica Mettle, April King, Adrienne Diaczok and Joseph Hargrove. April King, Director of Legislative Affairs, was not open to this request. She informed us that they are using their BLUE CARD for Developmental Disabilities that they implemented in 2020.

Her request to me was if I could hold off on "ERIC's ID LAW" and give them a chance to get the BLUE CARD out due to covid. It was a true insult to ask me to hold off on my son's mission to save lives for people like himself and others like him until she could get the BLUE CARD completely out.

We also met with the Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty, Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, Ethan Saylor Alliance Steering Committee on October 11, 2023 at 10am. Attendees for that meeting were Ms. Saylor, Stephanie Jones, Sdolamore, Katherine Follin, Robert Wagner, E Benevides, Tomgene Curtis, My Three Wheels, KendallF, Kimberly McKay, Jennifer Eastman. Pathfinder for Autism.

Eric and I presented "ERIC's ID LAW" to everyone who attended the meeting. I explained in detail how this is a voluntary selection. Eric explained how important this is to him for himself and his friends and others in the world to be safe should you get stopped by law enforcement.

I remember the question being asked "What is we want from them"? I said "We would love your support for "ERIC's ID LAW". We can ALL work together to help save lives. NO ONE said anything! This is when I knew "ERIC's ID LAW" was NOT welcomed with this group who happens to be ALL Caucasian people.

This was a moment that really hurt and was very disappointing. I never taught Eric to see color. I teach him to see character. GOD's word says love your neighbor! He didn't say Love your black neighbor or gay neighbor! – He said your NEIGHBOR! That means ALL PEOPLE!

I pray this BILL is passed for "ERIC's ID LAW" to help save lives for ALL people that have an encounter with Law Enforcement. I also hope that it serves as a communication tool within the community. I hope that any place that requires ID will be able to serve the person that needs assistance with "ERIC's ID LAW".

I want my son to feel a sense of security with this being on his ID that he will get the help that is needed to assist him. I am asking the favorable choice to pass this BILL because it is definitely needed.

Kind regards

Linda Kim Carpenter-Grantham

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Cell: 240 688 3322

Examples of Eric's ID Law Logos created by Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham



Statistics for the State Of Maryland & The United States Of America

According to United for Alice number of People With Disabilities in Maryland = 655,840 financial hardship among people with disabilities:maryland United Way of the National Capital Area https://unitedwaynca.org > uploads > 2022/11

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism. In Maryland, the prevalence is slightly higher, with 1 in 50 children being diagnosed.

Prevalence and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum ... Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (.gov) https://www.cdc.gov > mmwr > volumes

The estimates suggest that about 3% of Black, Hispanic and Asian or Pacific Islander children have an autism diagnosis, compared with about 2% of white kids.

Autism now more common in Black, Latino children than white ... NBC News

https://www.nbcnews.com > news > autism-now-comm...

In Maryland, Black and Asian or Pacific Islander children were two times more likely to be identified with ASD as Hispanic and white children.

CDC Report Shows Overall and Maryland Autism Rate ... Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health https://publichealth.ihu.edu > cdc-report-shows-overall-a...

Black children in Maryland were more likely to have ASD than white children.

CDC Report Shows Overall and Maryland Autism Rate ...

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health https://publichealth.jhu.edu > cdc-report-shows-overall-a...

People under age 30 with disabilities are 44% more likely to be arrested by police.

People With Disabilities More Likely to Be Arrested Social Work Today Magazine https://www.socialworktoday.com > news

In the United States, 50 percent of people killed by law enforcement are disabled, and more than half of disabled African Americans have been arrested by the time they turn 28—double the risk in comparison to their white disabled counterparts.

<u>Understanding the Policing of Black, Disabled Bodies Center for American Progress</u> https://www.americanprogress.org > article > understan...

According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, people with I/DD are often misjudged by police and the general public because their disabilities are invisible.

Interacting With Police If You Have a Disability

Police Brutality Center https://policebrutalitycenter.org > interacting-with-police-...

According to <u>Autism Speaks</u>, disabled individuals are seven times more likely than others to interact with police, and 53 percent of autistic adults in a 2019 study reported having had four or more interactions with police in their lifetime.

Interacting With Police If You Have a Disability Police Brutality Center https://policebrutalitycenter.org > interacting-with-police-...

Officers perceived 1.2% of the people they stopped to have one or more disabilities.

https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2022-01-12/pedestrian-traffic-stops-police-essential-california

Boys are nearly 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls. Autism prevalence is lower among white children than other racial and ethnic groups: White – 2.4% Black – 2.9%

Report reveals who gets stopped by cops in California Los Angeles Times https://www.latimes.com > california > newsletter > ped...

Charles County Maryland Police Department stop paralyzed man

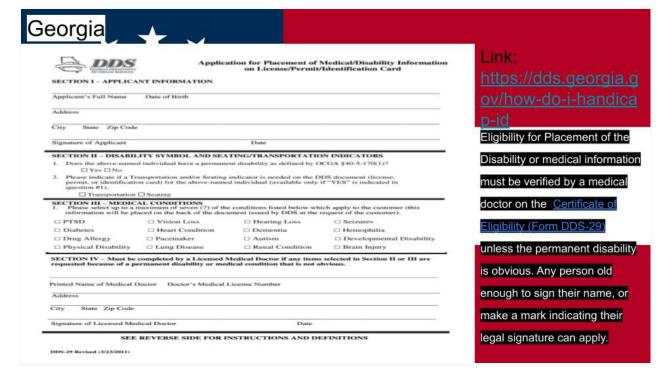
Cops Degrade Paralyzed Man During Traffic Stop













Optional driver's license or ID card designations - Iowa DOT

lowa Department of Transportation (.gov) https://iowadot.gov > mvd > driversitation >



lowa allows individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to add an optional indicator to their driver's license or ID card to help avoid miscommunication and negative interactions:

- Indicator: The word "autism" can be added to the front of the card.
- Visibility: The indicator is also visible in the database used by law enforcement.

- Voluntary: The indicator is not a restriction on driving privileges.
- Request: The request can be made during an in-person or online issuance transaction.

The state of Iowa also allows individuals with ASD to add a Medical Alert designation to their license.

This designation appears in red bold letters on the bottom right corner of the license. The individual can choose how to share this information. While some individuals with ASD may face challenges while driving, it is achievable with proper training and preparation.

This is a voluntary indicator and is not a restriction of driving privileges.





Michigan

Michigan residents with autism can add a voluntary communication impediment designation to their driver's license, state ID, or vehicle registration:

What it is

The designation informs law enforcement about communication needs in the event of a traffic stop or emergency. It appears on the Law Enforcement Information Network, but not on the driver's license or ID. Who can apply

Anyone with autism, deafness, hearing impairment, or another medical condition that makes communication difficult can apply.

How to apply

Complete the BFS-250 form and have it certified by a Michigan-licensed medical professional. The form can be mailed, faxed, emailed, or processed in person at a Secretary of State office. There is no fee.

Benefits

The designation can help create safer interactions with law enforcement. For example, police can be more understanding and use sensory-friendly approaches, such as less light and sound, and more distance. It can also be important in a medical emergency, as medical professionals may be more cautious about triggers and sensory concerns. RCHMSPI

Michiganders On Autism Spectrum Can Now Add Special

DPSS Supports New State Bill for Autism and Policing - NEWSUniversity of Michigan

.WKAR Public Media https://www.wkar.org > news michiganders-on-autism-.

https://news.dpss.umich.edu > 2021/04

Missouri

In Missouri, a "permanent disability indicator" can be added to a driver's license or non-driver ID upon request, appearing on the back of the card, signifying that the holder has a permanent disability; to obtain this indicator, a medical statement from a licensed healthcare professional is required.

Key points about Missouri disability indicators on driver's licenses

How to add it:

When applying for a new, renewal, or duplicate license, you can request to have the disability indicator added.

Medical verification:

A physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or other authorized licensed healthcare practitioner must complete a medical statement to verify the permanent disability.

No additional cost:

Adding the disability indicator does not incur extra fees.

Permanent Disability Indicator

FAQs Missouri Department of Revenue (.gov) https://dor.mo.gov > faq > driver-license > permanent-d...

Purpose:

This indicator is intended to alert emergency personnel about a person's permanent disability.

New Hampshire

a person with autism can add an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) indication to their driver's license or non-driver's picture identification card in New Hampshire.

- To add the indication, you can complete the Medically Recognized Disorder Indication form on the New Hampshire DMV website.
- A licensed physician must sign the form.
- You can drop off the form at a New Hampshire DMV dropbox.
- There is no additional cost to add the indication during a renewal.
- If you add the indication outside of a renewal period, there is a \$3 fee for a replacement license or ID card.
- If the name of the disorder is longer than 25 characters, only the abbreviation will appear on the ID.

Identifying Disability On a Driver's License Community Crossroads https://communitycrossroadsnh.org > identifying-disabil...

North Carolina

North Carolina will allow a voluntary driver's license designation for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will enter the designation into the driver's license record, instead of a unique symbol on the license.

The applicant must provide verification or documentation of their ASD diagnosis.

Law enforcement will receive training on the designation and how to interact with people with ASD.

There will be a process for voluntarily removing the designation.

<u>HB 581 – Drivers License</u> <u>Designation/Autism</u>

North Carolina Medical Society
https://ncmedsoc.org >
hb-581-drivers-license-designati.



The legislation, S761, allows people to indicate that they have a communication disorder on their license or government identification card. "This law is a victory for people with autism and their families," Murphy said in a statement after he signed the bill into law Monday. May 18, 2023

Link: NJ drivers licenses autism note can be included under law

Bergen Record https://www.northjersey.com > news > state > 2023/05/18

Link: Governor Signs Bill to Identify Autism on New

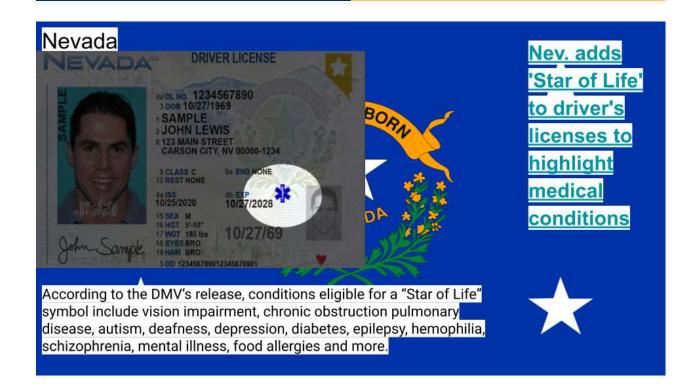
Jersey ... Autism NJ https://autismnj.org > news >

governor-signs-bill-to-id.

Link:https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/state/2023/ 05/18/ni-drivers-licenses-autism-law-police-stops/702286

93007/





Oklahoma NEW HO

NEW HOUSE BILL HELPS DISABLED OKLAHOMA

DRIVERS

House Bill 2516 goes into effect Nov. 1, making it easier for drivers with disabilities to communicate with law enforcement during a traffic stop.

Tuesday, October 29th 2019

Link: New House Bill Helps Disabled Oklahoma Drivers

OKLAHOMA

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical Condition | Medical 1 - General Cardinams Medical Symbol Information | Private Condition | Private Conditio

The SCDMV Form 447-CAD is used when an individual wishes to voluntarily disclose a medical condition to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. This form allows individuals to provide information about their medical condition, treatment, and any restrictions or accommodations needed while operating a vehicle. The form also includes a section for the individual's healthcare provider to certify the medical condition.

This form is important for individuals who have a medical condition that may affect their driving ability. By voluntarily disclosing this information, the SCDMV can assess whether any restrictions or accommodations are necessary to ensure safe driving. It is crucial to provide accurate and thorough information on this form to enable the SCDMV to make informed decisions regarding the individual's driving privileges.

Preview attachment 447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical Condition.pdf

447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical Condition.pdf

215 KB



Link: https://wrongplanet.net/forums/viewtopic.php?t=352455

Link: https://www.aspergers101.com/dr iving-autism-communication-impedim ents/

Texans now have the option to disclose "Communication Impediment" directly on the front of their Driver License or State ID or when registering their vehicle through the DMV. This will alert the trained officer of an individual who may be slower to respond or one who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Virginia

9

JP's Law Passed To Protect All People With Special Needs

Autism Parenting Magazine
https://www.autismparentingmagazine
.com > protect-peo...

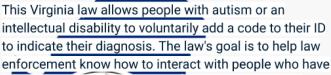
Virginia Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (.gov) https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov part_02_ips_law

JPs Law/SB367

Facebook JPs Law/SB367

JP's Law









Washington D.C (District of Columbia)

Yes, you can add a disability designation to your driver's license or ID card in Washington, DC:

REAL ID driver's license

Driver
License/Identification
Card Application
(English)

You can add a special designation indicator for a disability such as autism, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, or visual impairment.

Limited Purpose driver's license

You can add a special designation indicator for a disability, as well as an organ donation designation. You can also add or remove disability and medical designations from your driver's license or ID card system. These designations can provide first responders with information about how you communicate or if you have a condition that could affect a health emergency.

