

February 13, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 618 – Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 618 as an important customer service and safety reform.

SB 618 would require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to collaborate with certain groups to design a designator indicating a nonapparent disability on a Maryland driver's license, identification card, or moped operator's permit (DL/ID). The designator would be available to any applicant who chooses to voluntarily request it for the DL/ID issued by the MVA, so it is visible on the product when the holder displays it or hands it to another person.

According to an American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators (AAMVA) survey in April 2024, at least 12 states and the District of Columbia offer DL/ID holders in those jurisdictions the option to place an indicator for a nonapparent disability on the DL/ID. Utah also offers a sticker that can be placed on a DL/ID. AAMVA does not presently have a set design standard for a nonapparent disability indicator but regularly updates a "best practices" design guide in addition to federal guidelines and requirements for certain design elements required or recommended for DL/ID issuance in the United States.

SB 618 will provide a valuable indicator for Marylanders who choose to add the indicator to their DL/ID while providing flexibility to the MVA for design and future updates potentially needed. It further ensures the MVA will not refer those requesting an indicator for review by the Medical Advisory Board, while still allowing an individual to self-report.

The legislation further prohibits the MVA from sharing information related to the nonapparent disability indicator with an insurance company or the Maryland Insurance Administration. This will require the MVA to create an insurance-only version of a driving record to comply. As written, SB 618 does not otherwise restrict use of disability information in a driving record for any other use required or authorized under § 4-320 of the General Provisions Article. As a physical indicator placed on a DL/ID, the designator will also be visible to any person or place of business that requires verification or viewing of the physical product.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 618 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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