2025 SB 618 Vehicle Laws - Notification of Nonappa Uploaded by: angelo consoli

Position: FAV



Maryland State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police $^{\otimes}$



8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222

KENNETH SCHUBERT SECRETARY EARL KRATSCH TREASURER

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

> Support for Senate Bill 618 (Vehicle Laws – Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits – Notification of Nonapparent Disability)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of more than 20,000 active and retired Maryland police officers to urge your support of SB618, (Vehicle Laws – Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits – Notification of Nonapparent Disability).

SB618 law would enable applicants for licenses, identification cards, or moped operator's permits to indicate nonapparent disabilities on those forms of identification. The inclusion of a notation indicating a developmental or intellectual disability on an identification card would be a useful tool for public safety workers to quickly identify and assist members of our communities with nonapparent disabilities.

Maryland's law enforcement officers are focused on creating positive experiences and outcomes for those we serve, and passage of SB618 will aid us in that effort. We urge a favorable report on SB618.

Fraternally,

William R. "Will" Milam

First Vice President

Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham - Written TestimonUploaded by: Eric Carpenter-Grantham

Position: FAV

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

From: Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham

Address: 8250 Georgia Avenue, #823, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Email Address: ericgrantham04@gmail.com

Cell: 240 688 3322

BILL for SB0618 - Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability aka ERIC 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 Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham I am a 20-Year old African American male who is highly functioning autistic. I have been a Maryland citizen all of my life. I created special logos for AKA "ERIC's ID LAW" BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)

for people with invisible disabilities. Like Autism, Mental Health, Hearing Impaired and Hidden Disabilities should people with invisible disabilities be stopped by Law Enforcement.

Bill Number: SB0618

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

I would like to tell you my story about how I began "ERIC's ID LAW". When George Floyd was killed. My mother sat down with me to have a talk if I ever get stopped by the Law Enforcement. My mother told me if the police ever stop me to put my hands up! Yell out "I have Autism!" and yell out "someone call my mom!" Yell out my mother's phone number! She told me DO NOT TRY TO GRAB MY PHONE! Because the police may think I am reaching for a gun.

I said Mom! – I can do that but the police would shoot my friends. I started to cry telling my mom "WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING NOW!" My mother said – Let's think about this! My mother contacted former Chief of Police Robert J. Contee and we decided to meet with Chief Contee about doing a workshop with the police to teach people about

autism/invisible disabilities.

I went to my mom and asked her to please take me to congress to meet with the former House Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Pelosi. I wanted to talk with her about my ideas for laws for people like me and my friends that have autism, brain injury, bipolar, hearing impaired and other hidden disabilities. My mother told me she is very proud of me and she would do her best to get me to congress so I can tell them about my ideas for laws.

We met with Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando, Evan Glass, Kate Stewart, Andrew Friedson, Dawn Luedtke, Prince George's County State's Attorney, Aisha Braveboy, Mayor Casheena Cross of Glenarden Maryland, Prince George's County Sheriff John Carr, Montgomery County Sheriff Maxwell Uy, Montgomery County Chief of Police Marcus Jones, Senator, Chris Van Hollen, Delegate Kym Taylor, Delegate Lesley Lopez, Senator Nick Charles, Senator Michael Jackson, Congressman David Trone, President Darryll Pines of UMD and Montgomery College. ALL of these people Approved of AKA "ERIC's ID LAW - BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)

On July 10, 2023 me and my mother met with our Maryland State Senator Will C. Smith. I told him about my concerns. If I ever get stopped by the police, I may not be able to communicate well when they tell me what to do. I told him about my friends that have autism and their autism is different for each one of my friends. One of my friends I am really concerned about his autism is very different and I am worried about his safety. Because if the police ever stop him, he would run and hide because he is scared. You cannot tell when you look at him that he has autism. I don't want the police to hurt him. I don't want my other friends that have autism to be scared and run because the police may hurt them.

This is when I told my mother I wanted to put logos for autism, mental hearing, hearing impaired and hidden disabilities on the ID and driver license. Because when the police stop someone with an invisible disability this may make it safer for the person that has an invisible disability. When I told my story to Senator Will C. Smith, He said to me and mother that he is going to write the BILL for aka "ERIC"s ID LAW". BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Non Apparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)

I would like to ask that this Law have the **OPTION FOR VOLUNTARY SELECTION.** Because I have researched that more people of color are more likely to being diagnosed with hidden disability than Caucasian people. According to Autism Speaks, Disabled individual are seven times more likely than others to interact with police, and 53% of autistic adults in 2019 study reported having had four or more interaction with police in their lifetime.

I hope "ERIC"s ID LAW" will save lives for every race. It's not just about black people it's for ALL PEOPLE! I have noticed that some people that are NOT OF COLOR have tried to oppose this BILL. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY? This is a VOLUNTARY SELECTION! I wish we could ALL work together to save lives for people with invisible disabilities.

There are 19-States that have something on their ID's for people with invisible disabilities. Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington DC, Washington State and many more.

I would like to ask ALL the State Senators and House of Delegates from the bottom of my heart to please pass BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Non-Apparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION) Because we need change. If things don't change people with invisible disabilities will continue to be hurt and killed.

If this BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC'S ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION) is passed we would like to use the BUTTERFLY for HIDDEN DISABILITIES on the MARYLAND STATE ID.

I have attached examples of "ERIC"s ID LAW" logos on Dummy ID's. I have also attached statistics about people of color with autism and invisible disabilities being stopped by police. Me and my mother have submitted letters of support from the public to Senator Will C. Smith's Office.

PLEASE MAKE THE CHANGE TO SAVE LIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND INVISIBLE

DISABILITIES. Kind regards

Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham

Email: ericsidlaw@gmail.com

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.

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

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

CDC Report Shows Overall and Maryland Autism Rate ...

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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.

<u>Interacting With Police If You Have a Disability</u>

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.

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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

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

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



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

URIBUS IL 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 UEBUK 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. sensory concerns.

Michiganders On Autism Spectrum Can Now Add Special

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

DPSS Supports New State Bill for Autism and

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 > fag > 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.

HB 581 – Drivers License Designation/Autism

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

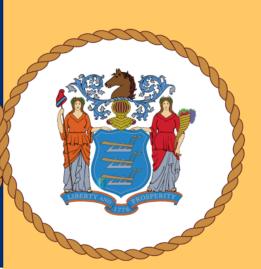
Bergen Record https://www.northjersey.com > news > state > 2023/05/18

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/nj-drivers-licenses-autism-law-police-stops/702286 93007/





Nev. adds
'Star of Life'
to driver's
licenses to
highlight
medical
conditions



Oklahoma 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 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 Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical Condition South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. This form allows individuals to provide information about their Pursuant to SC Code §56-1-80, you may provide the SCDMV with up to three medical conditions that will be noted by a ca medical symbol displayed on the back of your non-commercial SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification cand. medical condition, treatment, and any restrictions or The caduceus medical symbol will not be placed on commercial learner's permits (CLPs), or commercial driver's lic The medical condition(s) must be made available to law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospital personnel, nursuant to SC Code \$56-1-321, and permitted entities pursuant to the Driver Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C.A. \$2721. 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. | Anterior | Core | Cappenna | Cappenna | Anterior | Anterior | Anterior | Cappenna | Cappenna | Anterior | Anterior | Cappenna | Ca review attachment 447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical Condition.pdf 447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of a Medica Condition.pdf 215 KB



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

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

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

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 jps law

JPs Law/SB367

Facebook JPs Law/SB367

JP's Law



This Virginia law allows people with autism or an intellectual disability to voluntarily add a code to their ID to indicate their diagnosis. The law's goal is to help law enforcement know how to interact with people who have special needs, and to promote peaceful encounters.





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.



Linda Carpenter-Grantham's - Written Testimony for Uploaded by: Linda Carpenter-Grantham

Position: FAV

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

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

Address: 8250 Georgia Avenue, #823, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Email Address: bluerunwayforautism@gmail.com

Cell: 240 688 3322

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

Email: ericsidlaw@gmail.com

Cell: 240 688 3322

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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

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 ...

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

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

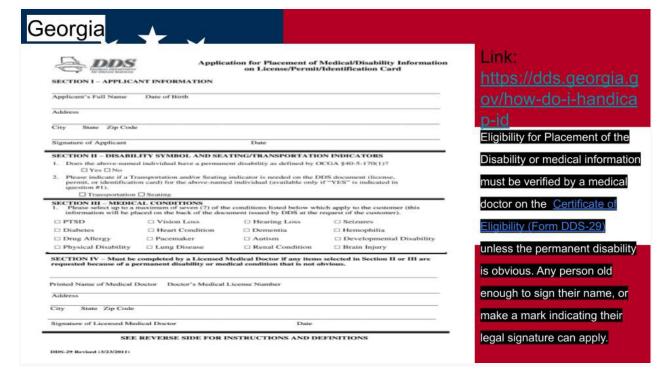
Cops Degrade Paralyzed Man During Traffic Stop













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

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

DPSS Supports New State Bill for Autism and

Policing - NEWSUniversity of Michigan 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

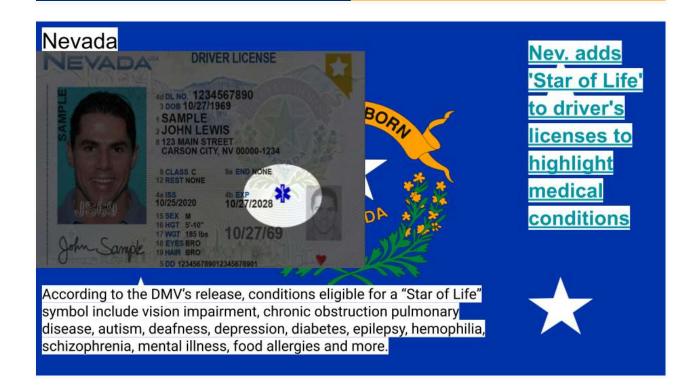
Jersey ... Autism NJ https://autismnj.org > news >

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...

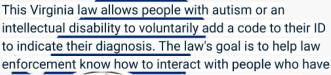
Virginia Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards

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.



SB0618 - MVA - LOS - Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Iden Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt



Wes Moore Governor Aruna Miller Lieutenant Governor Paul J. Wiedefeld Secretary

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.

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Page Two

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer Administrator Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration 410-787-7830 Matthew Mickler Director of Government Affairs Maryland Department of Transportation 410-865-1090

Testimony in support of SB0618 - Vehicle Laws - Li Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

SB0618 RichardKaplowitz FAV

02/13/2025 Richard Keith Kaplowitz Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0618 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicker and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee **FROM**: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0618, Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)

The word 'disability' might call to mind an image of someone who uses a wheelchair, crutch or other mobility devices. Why? Because these mobility devices are visual indicators that a person is disabled. But many disabilities are not visually discernible. In fact, the *majority* of disabilities are non-apparent. And yet, this kind of non-visible disability, known as a non-apparent disability, is a concept unfamiliar to much of the nondisabled population. Consequently, people with non-apparent disabilities face discrimination just as those who are visibly disabled do.

Some of the most common non-apparent disabilities are Alzheimer's, anxiety and/or depression, arthritis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Deafness, diabetes, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, post-traumatic stress disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit disorder (ADHD/ADD), traumatic brain injury, Usher syndrome, bipolar disorder, cystic fibrosis, and multiple sclerosis. ¹

This bill will ensure equal non ableist treatment of persons with non-apparent disabilities by both law enforcement officers, and in some cases, by members of the general public during interactions with people with this condition.

It will accomplish this goal by requiring that an original and renewal application for a license, an identification card, or a moped operator's permit allow an applicant to choose to indicate on the document the applicant's nonapparent disability. The process for notification to someone viewing those documents will be satisfied by requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that a certain license, identification card, or moped operator's permit include a notation of a nonapparent disability. It will increase public safety for non-apparent disabled individuals through requiring the immediate implementation of training for law enforcement concerning interactions with persons with nonapparent disabilities.

SB0618 RichardKaplowitz FAV

¹ https://wid.org/non-apparent-disabilities-when-your-disability-is-not-visible/

The case for this bill, nicknamed "Eric's Law" was spoken about by Eric's mother in a story by WUSA TV. ²

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. — The murder of <u>George Floyd</u> ignited conversation all over the world, and for one Maryland family, it also put the wheels in motion for a potential law.

After Floyd's death, Linda Carpenter-Grantham grew concerned about her 18-year-old son, Eric Carpenter-Grantham, in regards to being stopped by law enforcement. He has "high-functioning autism," an invisible disability. This led to Eric Carpenter-Grantham coming up with the idea to create three logos for people with invisible disabilities like autism, mental health concerns and hearing impairment.

We can honor this mother watching out for her son, and for other Marylander's whose non-apparent disability can create a disadvantage, by passing this important bill.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0618

² https://www.wusa9.com/article/life/heartwarming/get-uplifted/erics-id-law-individuals-with-invisible-disabilities-maryland/65-a1804283-c123-42fa-bc7a-958c0b7c1eea

SB618

Uploaded by: Sierra Gray



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE-ANNE SAYLES

AT LARGE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 13th, 2025

TO: Chair Will Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial

Proceedings Committee

FROM: Laurie-Anne Sayles

Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

RE: SB618, Licenses, Identification Card, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation

of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. My name is Laurie-Anne Sayles, and I proudly serve as an at-large member of the Montgomery County Council, representing over one million residents. In my role as the Council's Lead for Eliminating Disparities in Public Health, I am writing to express my strong support for <u>SB 618</u>, Eric's ID Law.

This bill establishes a voluntary ID program that allows individuals with invisible disabilities to communicate their condition through personal identification cards. For instance, a person with autism could have a card with a logo similar to the heart logo representing organ donors, indicating their condition. This logo would also be added to their driver's license or student ID, informing law enforcement if they have autism, a mental health condition, Alzheimer's disease, a hearing impairment, or similar challenges.

Invisible disabilities are not readily apparent to law enforcement officers, who often rely on their observations to assess situations quickly. They interpret an individual's responses to their environment and inquiries, which can lead to quick assumptions. However, these disabilities can significantly impact a person's reactions and ability to communicate, sometimes resulting in misunderstandings that could escalate an interaction unnecessarily.

Research estimates that <u>one-third to one-half of all use-of-force incidents</u> in the United States involve civilians with disabilities. <u>Studies</u> show that individuals with disabilities are more likely to be arrested. Furthermore, this risk is disproportionately higher among different racial and ethnic groups, with Black individuals with disabilities facing the greatest likelihood of arrest.

Clear communication is essential during police stops to maintain calm and ensure the safety of everyone involved. An optional logo on identification cards can provide crucial information about an individual's reactions to various situations, guiding law enforcement in interacting with them appropriately.

Individuals with developmental disabilities are approximately seven times more likely to encounter law enforcement than neurotypical individuals. This law serves as an essential tool for preventing unnecessary escalations during these interactions, ultimately enhancing public safety and reducing the risk of violent or even lethal incidents.

It is important to note that participation in this program is entirely voluntary. It honors the autonomy of individuals with invisible disabilities, enabling them to convey vital information in situations where communication might otherwise be challenging.

We must empower individuals, whether they are nonverbal individuals with autism or those with Alzheimer's displaying erratic behavior, to communicate essential information about themselves. This empowerment is crucial for their safety and peace of mind.

I expressed my disappointment when this bill stalled last year. I commend the Maryland Association of Counties for supporting it, Delegate Wilkins, the cosponsors for their unwavering commitment to reintroducing it this year, and our Chairs in the Senate and House for holding these necessary hearings.

As an elected official and public servant, I have been deeply impressed by Mr. Carpenter-Grantham's advocacy for this critical policy. Navigating these complex issues can be challenging, particularly when residents with lived experiences approach me with their fears and concerns. However, Mr. Carpenter-Grantham has consistently provided invaluable support.

Please pay close attention to today's testimony and take definitive action to equip our residents with the necessary tools for clear communication. The passage of Eric's ID Law has the potential to enhance our community's safety and well-being significantly.

Thank you.

Laurie-Anne Sayles

Zaurie-Onne Sayles

Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

Takoma Park 2025 - SB 618 FAV - Notation of Nonapp

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

<u>Support Senate Bill 618</u> – Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee February 13, 2025

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of Senate Bill 618, which ensures that individuals with non-apparent disabilities have a special identifier on their license or identification card.

The City of Takoma Park is a "Community of Belonging" in which everyone from all walks of life is welcomed. People with non-apparent disabilities play a crucial role in our society, bringing unique perspectives and talents that enrich our community. Their inclusion fosters diversity and promotes a culture of empathy and understanding. This inclusive approach helps break down barriers, reduces stigma, and encourages a more compassionate and equitable world for all.

SB 618 is a critical step towards ensuring the safety and independence of residents with non-apparent disabilities within the City of Takoma Park. This bill requires that licenses, identification cards, or moped operator's permits have an identifying marker which notifies law enforcement officers of the person's special needs. This identifier is important as it will provide police officers and other first responders with critical information to inform their response approach.

We have heard firsthand from parents of adult children with special needs how important it is for their children to have independence but as importantly a safe interaction with the police should one occur. This is why this bill is important.

The City of Takoma Park supports SB 618 and urges a favorable committee vote.

NCC Testimony_MD_SB0618_ 2.13.2024.2.pdf Uploaded by: Terrance King



Terrance King President and CEO National Children's Center (NCC) 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 700 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

February 13, 2025

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee Miller Senate Office Building, Entrance 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good afternoon, Honorable Chair William C Smith Jr. and distinguished members of the Judiciary Proceedings Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony regarding SB0618. My name is Terrance King, President and CEO of the National Children's Center (NCC).

I come before you as an advocate in support of SB0618, which would offer the choice of supportive identification documentation for individuals with varying abilities. It would give them the voluntary opportunity to choose how they would like to be identified on various forms, such as a Maryland license, identification card, or moped operator's permit, ensuring their experiences are acknowledged in a way that respects their preferences.

As a Maryland business, we have been providing services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) for 50 years in Montgomery. From this experience, we know firsthand how this voluntary opportunity would assist persons supported within our services of 78 individuals occupying 50 residential settings. We've created an inclusive and supportive environment where individuals can Live, Grow, Work, and Thrive.

Humanity and empowerment are the questions that are put forth before you. Every individual should have the right to identify their disability if they choose and to have supportive documentation to include them in their independent living. With this opportunity, individuals who choose to have the notation can feel safe and respected.



The National Children's Center (NCC), a unique non-profit organization established in 1958, serves over 600 infants, children, and adults with and without disabilities in the Silver Spring metropolitan region. Our comprehensive programs span from infancy to senior years and aim to bridge education, poverty, and health gaps. Over 70% of our participants are diagnosed with a disability, and our programs provide crucial support through our Early Learning and Intervention Center and Community Support Programs.

At NCC, 15% of individuals utilize transportation for school and employment, while 85% participate in the Community Day Program as part of the person-centered approach to addressing their needs. Persons supported can engage in employment readiness services, which include career assessments and step-by-step job support along their journey.

The Community Support Services, including residential and Day Programs, provide services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are matched with a dedicated Direct Support Professional to aid in their daily activities, enhancing their sense of well-being and independence. Individuals in our residential housing program learn life skills, such as how to safely utilize public transportation.

Persons Supported and their families look to our expertise concerning advocacy outreach efforts related to accessibility and accommodations. We respect each person's right to decide how their abilities are documented. However, systemic ableism can create barriers for individuals not given the choice to have their disability identified. We want to ensure that dignity and accuracy are at the forefront of challenging these barriers and encourage empowerment for individuals to say how their disabilities (invisible) are acknowledged through documentation.

On behalf of NCC, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before you today. I would also like to express our deep appreciation for the Maryland General Assembly, which has been instrumental in ensuring access to services and programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have a meaningful and quality life. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance King

President and CEO

SB 618 - LBCMD Priority Bill.docx.pdf Uploaded by: Ufuoma Agarin



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3185 • 301-858-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Fax 410-841-3175 • 301-858-3175 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

February 13, 2025

Chair William C. Smith, Jr. **Judicial Proceedings Committee** 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for Senate Bill 618 (SB 618) – Vehicle Laws – Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits – Notation of Non-Apparent **Disability (Eric's ID Law).** This bill ensures that individuals with non-apparent disabilities can voluntarily indicate their condition on their driver's license, identification card, or moped operator's permit. It mandates that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) include this notation upon request, prohibits the disclosure of this information to insurance companies, and requires law enforcement training on interacting with individuals with such disabilities. SB 618 is a necessary step toward improving public safety, disability awareness, and equitable access to accommodations in law enforcement and emergency situations. SB 618 is a 2025 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.

Studies have consistently shown that Black Americans face disparities in healthcare access and disability recognition, leading to underdiagnosis and inadequate accommodations for conditions such as autism, ADHD, PTSD, and other non-apparent disabilities. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Black children are five times less likely to receive early intervention services for developmental disabilities compared to their white counterparts. despite similar prevalence rates. Additionally, a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that Black individuals are more likely to experience misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis for conditions such as epilepsy, traumatic brain injuries, and mental health disorders, which can impact their interactions with law enforcement.

In Maryland, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy reported that Black individuals make up 32% of the state's population but 43% of traffic stops, some of which escalate due to misunderstandings linked to cognitive or sensory disabilities. Ensuring that law enforcement officers are trained to recognize and appropriately interact with individuals with non-apparent disabilities is critical for preventing miscommunication, unnecessary escalation, and wrongful detainment. The notation provided under SB 618 can serve as a

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de-escalation tool, offering officers essential context while protecting individuals' rights.

Moreover, research from the Maryland Department of Disabilities shows that Black Marylanders with disabilities face higher rates of unemployment and economic hardship, making access to proper accommodations—including in transportation and identification—a matter of racial and economic justice. By allowing individuals to voluntarily disclose their non-apparent disabilities, SB 618 ensures that they receive appropriate considerations in situations where their disability might not be immediately recognizable, such as traffic stops or emergency medical responses. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports SB 618.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland

Katie York Testimony SB0618 02.11.25.pdf Uploaded by: Katie York

Testimony In Support of (with Amendments) SB0618

Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability

02/11/25

Position: Favorable with Amendments

My name is Katie York (they/them), and I am a community advocate and organizer. I have worked in higher education for over fifteen years. However, my proudest title is that of "parent." Both my child and I have a non-apparent disability.

I am Autistic. I personally understand how scary it can be to worry that your normal behavior might look suspicious to those who do not know you, especially police. It is heartbreaking to think someone might mistake my not looking them in the eye as a sign I am lying to them, or that my "stimming" (behaviors meant to calm me when I am nervous or stressed, like rocking or tapping my hands) might signal to someone I am under the influence or otherwise a danger to myself and/or others. I sometimes misunderstand what people say, or as clarifying questions that might be perceived as non-compliance.

However, I worry that putting information about an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) on a license or state ID can open that individual up to additional discrimination. This proposed law is often described in the context of an interaction of a person with an IDD and law enforcement. But individuals may be asked to show a license or state ID in many other situations, such as during the employment process, getting into secure locations (like government buildings here in Annapolis but also their child's school), while traveling, or when opening a bank account. In these types of situations, people viewing the license or ID will not necessarily have any additional training on IDD, but, depending on the final design of the designator, may now know this individual in front of them has an IDD.

Additionally, I believe the true focus should be on providing funding for better training for emergency personnel, especially law enforcement, who across the US are known to harm and kill Disabled people at a higher rate than non-disabled people¹, especially if the individual also holds another historically marginalized identity. For example, Black and other People of Color are more likely to be harmed and killed because of interactions with law enforcement, especially if they are also Disabled. However, I support individual choice and autonomy and understand that despite my personal reservations, people should have the option to include this designator on their license or ID if they wish.

I am requesting the following amendments:

• Clarify in writing that only the individual or their parent/legal guardian can request the IDD designation be added on an ID/license

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- Clarify in writing that the designation can be removed from the license at any time (not just upon 18th birthday) at the request of the applicant or their parent/legal guardian and there is no fee to get a corrected document if there are no other changes
- Work with existing groups, such as the Ethan Saylor Alliance and self-advocacy groups like People on The Go, to hire multiple people with developmental disability and intellectual disability from various backgrounds to both deliver and regularly update/revise the training
- Require this training annually for all emergency personnel, not just police

While I am suggesting amendments, I want to make it clear that I strongly support the core intent of this bill, which ultimately is keeping people safe and possibly save lives. As one person noted last year in testimony for a previous version of this bill, if this law can safe one person's life, it will be worth it. Thank you for your consideration of both my concerns and proposed amendments to SB0618: Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability I urge you to return a favorable report.

Regards,
Katie York
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1

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CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 13, 2025

SB 618: Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The Council is led by a diverse group of people with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities.

The Council seeks to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have the same rights, opportunities, choices, and protections as other citizens. We absolutely prioritize the need for people with developmental disabilities to be protected and respected by law enforcement. In fact, our Five-Year State Plan that guides our work, includes two objectives and a variety of activities to support that priority.

There are many strong and diverse opinions about this issue and this bill among people with developmental disabilities and their families. Arguments range from the identification of a disability on a license or identification card will protect people with disabilities by providing necessary information to law enforcement during interactions with people with disabilities, to the deeply held belief that it is not possible to ensure adequate protections or safety for people with disabilities without more training and accountability for law enforcement.

Therefore, the Council can only support SB 618 which allows a person to indicate a nonapparent disability on their license, government identification, or moped operator's permit **IF the following amendments are included:**

- 1. Ensure a person has the ability to remove the indication from a license or government issued identification at any time, and that the information provided cannot be used as the basis for referring someone to the Medical Advisory Board. We appreciate that this is included in the legislation, but we understand the current system used by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) creates an electronic record, and the information about a person's disability will be forever stored in the system once any information is collected. So, for example, if a parent chooses to indicate a child's nonapparent disability, that information remains on the child's record even as they age and remains even if, at the age of 18, the person no longer wants that information indicated.
 - ➤ In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB885/HB1118 (Ch. 427) to require the Maryland MVA to provide voluntary Developmental Disability Self-Disclosure Cards. These cards may be used by someone with a developmental disability to self-disclose a disability to police. The cards are kept with a person's government issued identification or driver's license. On one side of the card, the person with disabilities can include information

about their disability, how they communicate, and any other pertinent information to share with law enforcement personnel. The cards are designed to signal to officers that the driver has a disability and that they may need to communicate differently. The MVA now has these cards available upon request.

- 2. Include more mandatory training for law enforcement that is consistent across the entire State. In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to create the Ethan Saylor Alliance (ESA) for Self Advocates as Educators. The ESA provides training for members of law enforcement and other public service entities on specific needs of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Under the ESA, people with disabilities take the central role in educating and informing law enforcement about the specific needs of those with disabilities and how to safely and supportively interact with people with disabilities. By allowing people with disabilities to lead the trainings, ESA is following best practices in creating change with law enforcement. More needs to be done to fund this best practice and promote people with disabilities to lead trainings with law enforcement.
- 3. **Establish and include specific accountability measures of law enforcement.** Once the required training is completed, the law enforcement officer should be expected to engage with Marylanders with disabilities as they were trained. If they are in violation, penalties or disciplinary measures should be implemented.

The amendments are important to the members of the Council. Our members feel strongly about the need to preserve the rights of people with disabilities so we avoid stigma and targeted victimization. Finally, <u>our members feel strongly that we need to protect people with disabilities who choose not to self-identify. That means if a person with disabilities does not want to use a disability notation on their ID, they should be treated with the same compassion, understanding, and respect as other Marylanders.</u>

Contact: Dee Sapp, Chairperson, sapp.dee2011@gmail.com, and Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org