

KRIS FAIR
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

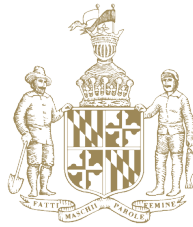
Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Election Law

Local Government/Bi-County
Agencies and Administration

Chair, Maryland Legislative
LGBTQ+ Caucus



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 5, 2026

HB1353- Homeless Individuals - Fee and Examination Exemptions

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Homeless individuals face too many barriers that keep them unhoused and unsupported. The state has a responsibility to ease burdens for homeless individuals by removing fees for essential documentation for work, healthcare, and housing -- especially when we already grant these fee waivers for other groups.

Requiring homeless individuals to pay for these documents when they often cannot afford them creates an unnecessary roadblock towards employment, housing, and medical care that the state could alleviate today with minimal fiscal impact. Access to vital documents and licenses will undoubtedly help these individuals get back on their feet as they struggle with homelessness and its impacts.

The list of vital documents this bill proposes to make free for homeless individuals is based off an existing list of exemptions of these fees for veterans and veteran families, with a few additions and reductions of waiting periods based on suggestions from advocates that will disproportionately help homeless youth.¹

We have a sponsor amendment that incorporates additional feedback from advocates, changing certain definitions and striking the word "unaccompanied" from a few places so that the bill does not unnecessarily exclude individuals that need this waiver.

Homeless Marylanders should not have to choose between paying for food, bills, and documentation. HB 1353 is a simple concept that will have an outsized impact on individuals who already face too many obstacles. I urge the Committee to return a favorable report to facilitate easier access to health care, housing, and employment by lifting financial burdens for obtaining vital documentation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Fair".

Delegate Kris Fair, District 3, Frederick County

¹ Vehicle registration fees, learner's instructional permits, driver's license fees, emissions inspections, birth/death/marriage/divorce/adoption and similar certificates.