

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary  
Anne Blackfield, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



**BILL: HB 1242**  
**POSITION: INFO – Letter of Information**  
**COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation**  
**DATE: February 27, 2026**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Maryland Department of Disabilities  
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is submitting this letter of information for **HB 1242, Transportation of Persons with Disabilities – Transportation Network Companies – Requirements**. This legislation would exempt transportation network companies (TNC's) under contract with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) that facilitate transit service to persons with disabilities from certain requirements relating to a criminal history records check. Our understanding is that while TNC drivers do already go through a background check, the specific nature of the background check required in MTA's current statutes have been a barrier to MTA's ability to contract with a broad range of TNC's.

In general, MDOD advocates for more transportation options for people with disabilities, particularly options that could give people with disabilities the same level of independence and flexibility as their nondisabled peers. MDOD believes it is critical that people with disabilities be allowed to make their own choices, based on their individualized needs, about how they interact with and move through their communities to the greatest extent possible.

TNCs are currently providing rides to WMATA paratransit riders, including Maryland residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. To date, we are unaware of safety concerns that have been raised to MDOD by riders in those counties. Additionally, TNC's are providing paratransit rides in other large cities such as New York City, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco. MDOD has noticed some positive media coverage of the use of TNC's for riders with disabilities, such as an article published on February 25, 2026 by Disability Scoop, a national disability-focused news source: ["Uber expands options for riders with IDD."](#)<sup>i</sup>

We observe that HB 1242 has, per MTA's fiscal note, a minimal fiscal and operational impact. Our understanding is that this bill simply removes the current statutory barrier to MTA's ability to contract with additional TNC's; it does not prescribe exactly how, or how broadly, MTA would expand paratransit or Call-a-Ride services using TNC's. We believe our colleagues in MTA's paratransit services are attuned to the needs and well-being of their riders - but MDOD

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would also be happy to consult with them throughout the implementation process as needed, should this legislation pass.

Thank you for taking time to review our letter.

Sincerely,

*Carol A. Beatty*

Carol A. Beatty  
Secretary, Department of Disabilities

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<sup>i</sup> Heasley, Shaun. "Uber expands options for riders with disabilities." Disability Scoop. February 25, 2026. Available at: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2026/02/25/uber-expands-options-for-riders-with-idd/31875/>

