

SB 0087/HB0248: Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards, Licenses, and Permits - Repeal of Color Photograph Requirement: Please VOTE TO OPPOSE this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I respectfully oppose **SB 0087 – Motor Vehicle Administration: Identification Cards, Licenses, and Permits – Repeal of Color Photograph Requirement.**

Color photographs are a critical security feature of Maryland-issued identification. Repealing the color photograph requirement would weaken the reliability of state IDs at a time when identification security is more important than ever. Law enforcement officers, election officials, financial institutions, and other entities rely on clear, accurate, and easily verifiable identification to confirm identity, prevent fraud and strengthen security measures.

Color photographs provide essential visual detail that black-and-white images simply cannot capture, including skin tone, complexion, hair color, eye color, and other distinguishing characteristics. These details are especially important for preventing identity theft, impersonation, and document fraud. Removing this requirement would make IDs less effective and potentially easier to misuse or falsify.

Maryland-issued IDs are widely used beyond driving privileges. They are relied upon for air travel, voting verification, banking, age verification, and access to secure facilities. Weakening ID standards could undermine public confidence in the integrity of these documents and create unnecessary complications for agencies and businesses that depend on them.

In addition, there has been no clear demonstration that repealing the color photograph requirement would result in meaningful cost savings or improved efficiency. Any minimal administrative benefit is outweighed by the increased risk to public safety and identity security.

Rather than lowering identification standards, Maryland should prioritize strengthening ID security and ensuring our credentials remain trustworthy, widely accepted, and resistant to fraud.

For these reasons, I urge you to **vote AGAINST SB 0087.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.