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Legislative District 44B
Baltimore County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee
Chair, Labor Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1338
MOTOR VEHICLES - DRIVER'S LICENSES - ELIGIBILITY

Delegate Sheila Ruth
March 5, 2026

HB1338 removes the burdensome and unnecessary requirement that drivers must hold a provisional license for 18 months before being eligible for a full license - a requirement that deprives adults and employers of job opportunities and qualified workers.

The problem this bill addresses was brought to my attention by a workforce development organization operating in my district. As the majority of their program participants do not already have licenses, they face difficulties participating in the workforce, which deprives both them and their families, as well as our state of their economic contribution. Otherwise qualified candidates who chose not to or were unable to start the process of obtaining a full driver's license at the age of 16 face serious barriers to employment. Because of how insurance companies treat them for the purposes of business insurance, having a provisional license creates an 18 month delay in securing employment.

I ask for a favorable report on HB1338.