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Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Ethics

Labor

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies
and Administration

House Study Group on Economic Stability



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB22: Correctional Services - Incarcerated Individuals - Identification Cards and Driver's Licenses

Judicial Proceedings

April 1st, 2026: 1:00 PM

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and honorable members of the committee for the record, I am Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 22.

House Bill 22 ensures that when an individual is released from incarceration, they leave with something fundamental to successful reentry: a valid Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration—issued identification card or driver's license.

This bill is about removing a needless barrier at the very moment we ask people to succeed.

Without state-issued identification, returning citizens are effectively locked out of society. They cannot apply for jobs, secure housing, access healthcare, enroll in education or workforce training programs, or even obtain many basic social services. We release individuals back into our communities and expect them to become stable, productive residents—yet deny them the most important document required to do so. That is not accountability; it is a setup for failure.

This is not a handout—it is a practical, commonsense investment in outcomes we all want: fewer repeat offenses, stronger workforce participation, and safer communities.

Other states, including California, Texas, Illinois, and North Carolina—have already recognized that identification upon release is a best practice. Research consistently shows that access to ID dramatically improves a person's ability to engage with employment, housing, and support systems. The U.S. Department of Justice has identified ID assistance programs as an effective tool in reducing recidivism by stabilizing individuals during the most vulnerable period after release.

Maryland has long prided itself on smart, evidence-based policy. HB22 aligns with that tradition. If we are serious about reentry, rehabilitation, and public safety, then we must ensure people leave incarceration with the basic tools required to succeed.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report on House Bill 22.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Schindler

Delegate Matthew J. Schindler

District 2B