

By: Representative Gibbs (72nd)

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 588

1       AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "MISSISSIPPI HOMEBOUND STATE  
2 IDENTIFICATION CARD ACT"; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
3 SAFETY TO ESTABLISH A HOMEBOUND IDENTIFICATION UNIT RESPONSIBLE  
4 FOR ADMINISTERING IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF STATE  
5 IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND DUE TO  
6 PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS OR SEVERE MEDICAL CONDITIONS AS DEFINED UNDER  
7 THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT; TO PRESCRIBE THE MINIMUM  
8 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE HOMEBOUND IDENTIFICATION UNIT;  
9 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
10 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIT; TO REQUIRE  
11 THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT  
12 THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE UNIT; TO REQUIRE THE  
13 DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM'S STATUS TO  
14 THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE; TO PRESCRIBE ELIGIBILITY  
15 REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-HOME STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD SERVICES; TO  
16 AMEND SECTION 45-35-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE TERMS  
17 AND DEFINITIONS IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE CREATION OF THE  
18 PROGRAM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 45-35-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
19 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED  
20 PURPOSES.

21       BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

22       SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
23 "Mississippi Homebound State Identification Card Act."

24       SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Public Safety shall  
25 establish a Homebound Identification Unit, which shall be  
26 responsible for administering in-home services for the issuance of  
27 state identification cards to individuals who are homebound due to

28 physical impairments or severe medical conditions as defined under  
29 the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so as to render them  
30 permanently disabled.

31 (2) The Homebound Identification Unit shall:

32 (a) Schedule and conduct in-home visits for eligible  
33 individuals;

34 (b) Train staff to provide compassionate and efficient  
35 services in compliance with ADA standards; and

36 (c) Develop a secure mobile system for collecting  
37 biometric data, photographs, and electronic signatures.

38 (3) (a) The department is authorized to promulgate rules  
39 and regulations necessary for the implementation and  
40 administration of the Homebound Identification Unit, including  
41 application procedures, fee waivers or reductions for eligible  
42 individuals and data security protocols.

43 (b) The Legislature shall appropriate funds to the  
44 department to support the establishment and operation of the  
45 Homebound Identification Unit.

46 (c) The department may pursue federal grants and other  
47 funding opportunities to support this program.

48 (4) The department shall submit an annual report to the  
49 Governor and the Legislature detailing:

50 (a) The number of individuals served by the program;  
51 (b) The average wait time for appointments; and

52 (c) Any challenges or recommendations for program  
53 improvements.

54        **SECTION 3.** (1) A person shall be eligible for in-home state  
55 identification card services if they meet the following criteria:

56 (a) The individual is a resident of Mississippi and  
57 qualifies for a state identification card under existing  
58 Mississippi law.

59 (b) The individual has a severe physical or medical  
60 condition that meets one or more of the following:

61 (i) Prevents them from leaving their home due to  
62 mobility limitations, severe respiratory conditions, or other  
63 impairments listed under the ADA.

64 (ii) Requires the use of medical equipment (e.g.,  
65 oxygen, wheelchair, or hospital bed) that makes travel impractical  
66 or unsafe.

67 (iii) Is under hospice care or has a terminal  
68 illness confirmed by a physician.

69 (c) The individual provides a completed application,  
70 proof of residency, and documentation of their condition as  
71 outlined in subsection (2) of this section.

72 (2) Applicants for the homebound services program must  
73 provide:

74 (a) A completed application form developed by the  
75 department;



76 (b) Proof of Mississippi residency in accordance with  
77 the department's requirements;

78 (c) Proof of identity as required for standard state  
79 identification card issuance;

80 (d) A physician's statement that:

81 (i) Specifies the medical condition or physical  
82 impairment that prevents the applicant from traveling;

83 (ii) Affirms that the applicant meets the criteria  
84 for homebound status as described in subsection 1(b); and  
85 (iii) Includes the physician's name, license  
86 number and contact information.

87           **SECTION 4.** Section 45-35-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
88 amended as follows:

89 45-35-51. As used in this article, the term:

90 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the  
91 Department of Public Safety.

92 (b) "Department" means Department of Public Safety.

93 (c) "Disability" means any physical, mental or  
94 neurological impairment which severely restricts a person's  
95 mobility, manual dexterity or ability to climb stairs; substantial  
96 loss of sight or hearing; loss of one or more limbs or use  
97 thereof; or significantly diminished reasoning capacity.

98 (d) "Identification card for persons with disabilities"  
99 means an identification card issued as provided in this article.



100 (e) "Permanent disability" means any disability which  
101 is permanent in nature or which is expected to continue for a  
102 period of at least five (5) years.

103 (f) "Person with disabilities" means any person with a  
104 permanent or temporary disability.

105 (g) "Temporary disability" means any disability which  
106 is expected to continue for at least six (6) months but less than  
107 five (5) years.

114 **SECTION 5.** Section 45-35-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
115 brought forward as follows:

116 45-35-53. (1) The Department of Public Safety shall issue  
117 personal identification cards to persons with disabilities who  
118 make application to the department in accordance with rules and  
119 regulations prescribed by the commissioner by filing with the  
120 Secretary of State under the Administrative Procedures Act. The  
121 identification card for persons with disabilities shall  
122 prominently display the international handicapped symbol and, in  
123 addition to any other information required by this article, may



124 contain a recent color photograph of the applicant and the  
125 following information:

126 (a) Full legal name;

127 (b) Address of residence;

128 (c) Birth date;

129 (d) Date identification card was issued;

130 (e) Date identification card expires;

131 (f) Sex;

132 (g) Height;

133 (h) Weight;

134 (i) Eye color;

135 (j) Location where the identification card was issued;

136 (k) Signature of person identified or facsimile  
137 thereof; and

138 (l) Such other information as required by the  
139 department.

140 (2) The identification card for persons with disabilities  
141 shall bear an identification card number which shall not be the  
142 same as the applicant's social security number. The commissioner  
143 shall prescribe the form of identification cards issued pursuant  
144 to this article to persons who are not United States citizens.  
145 The identification cards of such persons shall include a number  
146 and any other identifying information prescribed by the  
147 commissioner.

148           **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
149 and after July 1, 2025.

