

## Low Vision Driving in Maryland-Legislation, Legality, Limitations

Legislation was passed in 1990 allowing the visually impaired individual to obtain a driver's license in the state of Maryland. This legislation required the low vision individual to have best corrected vision of no worse than 20/100 in the carrier lens, and through use of a telescope be corrected to no worse than 20/40. In 1997, this law was amended to eliminate the requirement for a telescope, leaving the use of a telescopic device to the discretion of the eye care practitioner. The purpose of this presentation is to describe the impact of this legislation on the eye care provider and the low vision individual. Specifically this presentation will:

1. Evaluate whether this legislation is meeting its original intent.
2. Profile the typical low vision driver in the state of Maryland.
3. Examine referral patterns to see if local eye care providers are following this legislation.
4. Offer considerations for future low vision driving legislation.

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