



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 279

LCO No. 2118



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION FOR REMOVABLE WINDSHIELD PLACARDS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACCESSIBLE PARKING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
5 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
6 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
7 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or any
8 person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of age at
9 the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person who is
10 blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to request
11 or complete an application; and (5) any organization which meets
12 criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to the
13 commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
14 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or

15 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
16 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept
17 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal
18 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
19 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
20 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
21 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
22 of section 1-1h. The commissioner [is authorized to] may adopt
23 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the
24 issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do not hold
25 or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card. The
26 commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to any such
27 person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be on a form
28 prescribed by the commissioner. The application and renewal
29 application shall include: (A) Certification by [a licensed physician, a] (i)
30 the applicant's treating physician, licensed pursuant to chapter 370,
31 physician assistant, [an] licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or advanced
32 practice registered nurse, licensed [in accordance with the provisions of
33 chapter 378, or] pursuant to chapter 378, (ii) a person who holds a
34 similar license and is participating in the same group practice, as
35 defined in section 19a-486i, as such treating physician, physician
36 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, or (iii) a member of the
37 driver training unit for persons with disabilities established pursuant to
38 section 14-11b, that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a
39 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
40 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B) certification by a psychiatrist who is
41 employed by, or under contract with, the United States Department of
42 Veterans Affairs that the applicant (i) is a veteran, as defined in
43 subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic stress disorder
44 certified as service-connected by the United States Department of
45 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the definition of a person with a
46 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
47 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of persons who are blind, the application
48 or renewal application shall include certification of legal blindness
49 made by the Department of Aging and Disability Services, an

50 ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Any person who makes a
51 certification required by this subsection shall sign the application or
52 renewal application under penalty of false statement pursuant to section
53 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said commissioner's discretion, may
54 accept the discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as defined in section
55 14-254, in lieu of such certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
56 may require additional certification at the time of the original
57 application or at any time thereafter. If a person who has been requested
58 to submit additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the
59 request, or if such additional certification is deemed by the
60 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the
61 commissioner may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or
62 revoke such special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not
63 issue more than one placard per applicant, except the commissioner
64 shall issue one placard to each applicant who is a parent or guardian of
65 any person who is blind or any person with disabilities, provided no
66 more than two such placards shall be issued on behalf of such person.
67 The fee for the issuance of a temporary removable windshield placard
68 shall be five dollars. Any person whose application has been denied or
69 whose special license plate or placard has been suspended or revoked
70 shall be afforded an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the
71 provisions of chapter 54.

72 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-253c of the 2024 supplement to the
73 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
74 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

75 (b) The advisory council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of
76 Motor Vehicles or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of
77 Aging and Disability Services or the commissioner's designee, (3) two
78 members appointed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who are
79 licensed physicians, physician assistants or advanced practice registered
80 nurses who certify applications for removable windshield placards
81 while in the course of employment, (4) one member appointed by the
82 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services who represents an
83 organization that advocates on behalf of persons with physical

84 disabilities, (5) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint
 85 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 86 matters relating to transportation, [who is a municipality planner,] (6)
 87 one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee
 88 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 89 transportation, who uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of
 90 such users, [of accessible parking,] (7) one appointed by the House
 91 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
 92 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who
 93 uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of such users, [of
 94 accessible parking,] (8) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of
 95 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 96 cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who is a sworn
 97 member of a municipal police department, and (9) and such other
 98 members as the advisory council may prescribe. All initial
 99 appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later than
 100 September 1, 2023. Each member appointed pursuant to subdivisions (3)
 101 to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall serve for a term of two years and
 102 may serve until such member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy
 103 shall be filled by the appointing authority. The Commissioner of Motor
 104 Vehicles, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of
 105 the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times as it
 106 deems necessary and may establish rules governing its internal
 107 procedures.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-253a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	14-253c(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) permit a licensed professional in the same group practice as the applicant's treating physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse to certify that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, and (2) amend the membership of the Accessible Parking Advisory Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]