
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 995

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVABLE WINDSHIELD PLACARDS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the laws on windshield parking placards used by people with certain disabilities or blindness. It requires these placards to bear the words "Accessibility Parking Permit" and, beginning October 1, 2023, prohibits any issued placard from bearing the words "parking permit for persons with disabilities." However, under the bill, any otherwise valid placard issued before this date is valid until it expires.

The bill also requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to check the Department of Public Health's state death registry at least monthly, rather than periodically as under current law, and cancel placards issued to deceased people identified in the registry, which conforms to current DMV practice.

By August 1, 2023, the bill requires the DMV Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection with jurisdiction over the state police to jointly convene a working group, of which they or their designees are also members, comprised of:

1. two or more licensed physicians, physician assistants, or advanced practice registered nurses whose work includes certifying applications for removable windshield placards;
2. two or more sworn municipal police department members; and
3. any other person they invite to be a member.

The working group must review the status of lifetime removable

placards issued prior to January 1, 2010. Regarding the issuance and use of removable placards, the group must (1) review other states' laws; (2) recommend best practices to the DMV commissioner for clear and concise policies and regulations, including for applying for placards; and (3) make educational materials available to medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and the general public.

The group must submit a report on its findings, the education materials developed, and any recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2024. The bill sunsets the group on this date or its reporting date, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the working group is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

DMV Study

PA 22-44, § 17, required the DMV commissioner to report to the Transportation Committee on the results of her review of other states' laws and regulations, and any legislative or regulatory recommendations on applying for, issuing, and using removeable windshield placards for people with disabilities or blindness.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/17/2023)