



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 995

LCO No. 3996



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) For the purposes of this section:

5 (1) "Special license plate" means a license plate displaying the symbol
6 of access in a size identical to that of the letters or numerals on the plate
7 and in a color that contrasts with the background color of the plate;

8 (2) "Removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hanger-style
9 placard which bears on both of its sides: (A) The symbol of access in a
10 height of three inches or more centered on such placard and colored
11 white on a blue background; (B) a unique identification number; (C) a
12 date of expiration; [and] (D) a statement indicating that the Connecticut
13 Department of Motor Vehicles issued such placard; and (E) the words
14 "Accessibility Parking Permit";

15 (3) "Temporary removable windshield placard" means a placard that
16 is the same as a removable windshield placard except that the symbol
17 of access appears on a red background;

18 (4) "Person with disabilities" means a person with disabilities which
19 limit or impair the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2;
20 and

21 (5) "Symbol of access" means the symbol designated by the
22 Commissioner of Administrative Services pursuant to section 29-269b
23 used to indicate access for persons with disabilities.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
26 *1, 2023*):

27 (d) (1) Any placard issued pursuant to this section shall be displayed
28 by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of the vehicle
29 when utilizing a parking space reserved for persons who are blind and
30 persons with disabilities. If there is no rearview mirror in such vehicle,
31 the placard shall be displayed in clear view on the dashboard of such
32 vehicle.

33 (2) On and after October 1, 2023, any placard issued pursuant to this
34 section shall not bear the words "parking permit for persons with
35 disabilities". Any placard issued prior to October 1, 2023, that is
36 otherwise valid, shall remain valid, according to its terms until the
37 expiration of such placard.

38 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
39 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
40 *1, 2023*):

41 (o) The commissioner shall [periodically] check the Department of
42 Public Health's state registration of deaths at least twice a year and shall
43 cancel any placard issued to an individual identified in such registry as
44 deceased.

45 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
46 Removable Windshield Placard Advisory Council that shall be within
47 the Department of Motor Vehicles for administrative purposes only. The
48 advisory council shall, at least annually, (1) review the laws in other
49 states concerning the issuance and use of removable windshield
50 placards for persons who are blind and persons with disabilities, (2)
51 recommend best practices to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for
52 clear and concise policies and regulations regarding the issuance and
53 use of removable windshield placards pursuant to section 14-253a of the
54 general statutes, and (3) make educational materials available to
55 medical professionals, law enforcement officers and the general public
56 regarding the proper issuance and use of such removable windshield
57 placards.

58 (b) The advisory council shall consist of nine members, appointed as
59 follows: (1) Five appointed by the Governor; (2) one jointly appointed
60 by the speaker and majority leader of the House of Representatives; (3)
61 one jointly appointed by the president pro tempore and majority leader
62 of the Senate; (4) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of
63 Representatives; and (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the
64 Senate.

65 (c) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made not
66 later than August 1, 2023. The term of each member of the advisory
67 council shall be two years. Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder
68 of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

69 (d) The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the advisory
70 council from among the members. The advisory council shall meet at
71 least annually and at such other times as the chairperson deems
72 necessary or upon the request of a majority of the members. Members
73 shall serve without compensation.

74 (e) On or before January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the advisory
75 council shall submit a report on its activities and any recommendations
76 to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General

77 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in
78 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-253a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-253a(d)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-253a(o)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require a removable windshield placard to bear the words "Accessibility Parking Permit", (2) require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to check the state registration of deaths twice a year, and (3) establish a Removable Windshield Placard 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.]