



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1080

LCO No. 4717



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after July 1, 2023,
2 the Department of Transportation shall provide for fare-free bus public
3 transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental
4 disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental
5 Services. The cost of such transportation services shall be paid from the
6 funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation. The
7 Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of
8 Developmental Services, shall make applications for a fare-free transit
9 identification card available to such persons. Any such identification
10 card shall include a photograph of such person.

11 (b) On and after July 1, 2023, the Department of Transportation shall
12 provide for reduced fares for intrastate rail service by commuter
13 railroad systems for persons with intellectual or developmental
14 disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental

15 Services. Such reduced fares shall be one-half the amount of the fare
16 charged for such rail service by a commuter railroad system. The cost of
17 such reduced fares shall be paid from the funds appropriated to the
18 Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation, in
19 coordination with the Department of Developmental Services, shall
20 make applications for an identification card for reduced fare rail services
21 available to such persons. Any such identification card shall include a
22 photograph of such person.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Transportation
24 and Developmental Services, in conjunction with each transit district
25 established under chapter 103a of the general statutes or any special act,
26 shall study the demand and need for state-wide and local transportation
27 services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Such
28 study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) expanding the hours
29 of operation, including the evening hours, for rail service on commuter
30 railroad systems and state-owned or controlled bus public
31 transportation services, (2) determining the daily transportation needs
32 of such persons, including traveling to and from work, educational
33 facilities, medical appointments, stores and other places in order to
34 enjoy life's amenities, and (3) a specific analysis of the transit services
35 provided by each transit district that identifies locations underserved by
36 such transit district and specific routes for possible expansion to meet
37 the demand and needs for such transit services and the costs associated
38 with servicing such locations and expanding such routes. On or before
39 February 1, 2024, the commissioners shall submit the results of such
40 study and recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of
41 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of
42 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
43 transportation and human services.

44 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2023,
45 each transit district established under chapter 103a of the general
46 statutes or any special act shall develop a process by which an employer
47 who employs at least ten employees with intellectual or developmental
48 disabilities or a provider of community-based services for at least ten

49 persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities may request the
50 district to construct and maintain a bus stop or shelter at or near such
51 employer's or provider's location. Each transit district shall post such
52 process in a conspicuous plan on the district's Internet web site.

53 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2023, the
54 Department of Developmental Services shall issue a request for
55 proposals for the provision of nonmedical transportation services for
56 persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities whose
57 transportation needs are not currently served by public transportation
58 in the state. Such nonmedical transportation services shall provide
59 transportation to and from work, educational facilities, medical
60 appointments, stores and other places in order for such persons to enjoy
61 life's amenities.

62 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of
63 Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Developmental
64 Services, shall ensure persons with intellectual or developmental
65 disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental
66 Services have access to any travel training program funded by the
67 Department of Transportation that provides instruction on how to
68 safely use commuter railroad systems and bus public transportation
69 services.

70 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the purposes of this section,
71 "carrier" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-212 of the
72 general statutes and "school bus driver" has the same meaning as
73 provided in section 14-276b of the general statutes. The Department of
74 Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Motor
75 Vehicles, shall develop and make available to carriers and school bus
76 drivers online training resources or videos that provide instruction and
77 best practices concerning ways to appropriately interact with persons
78 with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The departments shall
79 post such training resources or videos in a conspicuous place on their
80 respective Internet web sites.

81 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2023,
82 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall offer appointments to
83 students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, students with
84 intellectual or developmental disabilities, for the on-the-road skills test
85 portion of the examination for a motor vehicles operator's license at
86 drivers' schools, licensed in accordance with the provisions of section
87 14-69 of the general statutes. The on-the-road skills test shall be
88 administered by a motor vehicle inspector agent or an agent of the
89 commissioner and shall be made available to such students who are
90 otherwise eligible to take such test.

91 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
92 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
93 *2023*):

94 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
95 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
96 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
97 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or any
98 person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of age at
99 the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person who is
100 blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to request
101 or complete an application; and (5) any organization which meets
102 criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to the
103 commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
104 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or
105 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
106 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept
107 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal
108 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
109 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
110 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
111 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
112 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations for
113 the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do not
114 hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card. The

115 commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to any such
116 person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be on a form
117 prescribed by the commissioner. The application and renewal
118 application shall include: (A) Certification by a licensed physician, a
119 physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed in
120 accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member of the driver
121 training unit for persons with disabilities established pursuant to
122 section 14-11b, that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a
123 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
124 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B) certification by a psychiatrist who is
125 employed by, or under contract with, the United States Department of
126 Veterans Affairs that the applicant (i) is a veteran, as defined in
127 subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic stress disorder
128 certified as service-connected by the United States Department of
129 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the definition of a person with a
130 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
131 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of persons who are blind, the application
132 or renewal application shall include certification of legal blindness
133 made by the Department of Aging and Disability Services, an
134 ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Any person who makes a
135 certification required by this subsection shall sign the application or
136 renewal application under penalty of false statement pursuant to section
137 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said commissioner's discretion, may
138 accept the discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as defined in section
139 14-254, in lieu of such certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
140 may require additional certification at the time of the original
141 application or at any time thereafter. If a person who has been requested
142 to submit additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the
143 request, or if such additional certification is deemed by the
144 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the
145 commissioner may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or
146 revoke such special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not
147 issue more than one placard per applicant, except the commissioner
148 shall issue one placard to each applicant who is a parent, [or] guardian
149 or caregiver of any person who is blind or any person with disabilities,

150 provided no more than [two] three such placards shall be issued on
151 behalf of such person. The fee for the issuance of a temporary removable
152 windshield placard shall be five dollars. Any person whose application
153 has been denied or whose special license plate or placard has been
154 suspended or revoked shall be afforded an opportunity for a hearing in
155 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	14-253a(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To increase transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental Services by providing fare-free bus public transportation services and reduced fares for intrastate rail services, requiring a request for proposals for nonmedical transportation services for such persons, expanding access to travel training programs and issuing removable windshield placards to the caregivers of such persons.

[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.]