

# Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-279

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

**Title:** ADVISORY COUNCIL.

**Vote Date:** 3/20/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/4/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Joint Committee on Transportation

## **CO-SPONSORS:**

Rep. Vincent Candelora

Rep. Tom Delnicki

Rep. Rachel Chaleski

Rep. Mark DeCaprio

Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditra

Rep. Tami Zawistowski

Rep. Seth Bronko

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill hopes to address the abuse of the handicap placard system and ensure medical professionals who certify requests for placards, are licensed in the state of Connecticut, and have in fact evaluated the individual applying.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

No state agency provided testimony on this bill.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Vincent Candelora, House Minority Leader, Connecticut General Assembly**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Wrongful issuance of handicap placards takes parking spaces from those who truly need them. Allowing any physician to sign off on the need for a placard creates unnecessary competition for limited parking spaces.

**Alexandria Bode, Executive Director, Peace Love ACCESSibility (PLA)**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. PLA states they do not believe 3<sup>rd</sup> party distribution of handicap parking placards should be allowed as such processes are at best easily abused and at worst completely fraudulent and predatory. Distribution of placards to those who need them ought also not carry a price tag. 3<sup>rd</sup> party distributors take advantage of individuals who do not know that placards are cost free through primary care.

**Sam Bode, Employee, North Branford High School**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Bode expresses concern over the abuse of handicap placards from people who do not need them, lamenting the difficulty in finding spots in his own experience. Online prescriptions provide no real advantage, as in-person forms are easy to acquire and submit, as well as cost free.

**Mary Caruso, Founder, Peace Love ACCESSibility**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Disability accessible parking is egregiously abused, under-enforced, and misunderstood. PLA asserts there is no rationale for allowing 3<sup>rd</sup> party placard distribution, as it is easily abused and undermines trust in the system.

**Ruth Grobe, Secretary, Citizens Coalition 4 Equal Access (CC4EA)**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Tightening security on the process of obtaining windshield placards make it harder for unqualified people to be granted a placard and expanding the Accessible Parking Advisory Council with more members will allow for greater expertise regarding pertinent issues.

**Jacey Jones, Personal Care Assistant**

Provided testimony in support of the bill. Jones states that placards should not be issued without personal or telehealth examination. Such distributions are unethical and easily abused, as over prescription of placards to those who do not need them causes those who do to lose access to handicapped parking spots.

**The following individuals provided brief testimony in support of the bill, stating that online applications for placards is both financially predatory and easily abused:**

**Ms. Olivia DelBasso**

**Karen Guthrie**

**Jillian Laggis, OTR/L**

**Callie Saltz**

**1 Anonymous Testimonial**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No testimony was offered in opposition to this bill.

**Reported by: Garrett Smith**

**Date: 4/3/24**