



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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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.]*