



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
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***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 20, 2013***

HB 5129 – AN ACT CONCERNING LIFETIME PARKING PERMITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 5129, AN ACT CONCERNING LIFETIME PARKING PERMITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES

The Department of Motor Vehicles has concerns about this proposed legislation. Over the past several years, the handicapped parking permit laws have been revised in an effort to try to reduce fraud and abuse of such handicapped placards.

Regarding lifetime placards for those persons with disabilities and persons who are blind, DMV has developed regulations and policies for transitioning away from lifetime placards in accordance with statutory changes. DMV now issues handicapped parking permits for a period of six years that expires on the same date as the person's driver's license or non-driver identifications card. This measure is one component of several changes designed to protect those with disabilities and help to ensure that placards are being properly used.

The regulatory changes also require the return of a handicapped placard if the recipient moves out of Connecticut or dies. DMV does regularly check the records for vital statistics and remove such placards from its system when a placard recipient has died. Unfortunately, however, sometimes family members and other relatives of the deceased recipients abused the use of lifetime placards. By phasing out lifetime placards, the intent is to help continue to reduce such abuse by requiring their renewal every six years.

We respect the intent of the proposed legislation, however, we would ask the Committee to consider its potential negative impact on reducing abuse. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this legislation.