



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 426**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 995

*Senate, April 4, 2023*

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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 on a monthly basis and shall

43 cancel any placard issued to an individual identified in such registry as  
44 deceased.

45 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2023, the  
46 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Deputy Commissioner of  
47 Emergency Services and Public Protection with jurisdiction over the  
48 Division of State Police shall jointly convene a working group to: (1)  
49 Review the laws in other states concerning the issuance and use of  
50 removable windshield placards for persons who are blind and persons  
51 with disabilities, (2) recommend best practices for policies and  
52 regulations regarding the application for, and issuance and use of,  
53 removable windshield placards, (3) make educational materials  
54 available to medical professionals, law enforcement officers and the  
55 general public regarding the proper issuance and use of such removable  
56 windshield placards, and (4) review the status of such removable  
57 windshield placards issued to persons who are blind and persons with  
58 disabilities prior to January 1, 2010, for the lifetime of such persons.

59 (b) The working group shall be comprised of (1) the Commissioner of  
60 Motor Vehicles, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Deputy  
61 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection with  
62 jurisdiction over the Division of State Police, or the deputy  
63 commissioner's designee, (3) two or more licensed physicians, physician  
64 assistants or advanced practice registered nurses who certify  
65 applications for removable windshield placards while in the course of  
66 employment, (4) two or more sworn members of a municipal police  
67 department, and (5) any other person invited by the commissioner and  
68 deputy commissioner to be a member of the working group.

69 (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a  
70 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
71 statutes, regarding the findings of the working group, the education  
72 materials developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any  
73 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
74 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation. The  
75 working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or

76 January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

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

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes several changes to the laws on certain windshield placards and does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 995*****AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVABLE WINDSHIELD PLACARDS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the laws on windshield parking placards used by people with certain disabilities or blindness. It requires these placards to bear the words “Accessibility Parking Permit” and, beginning October 1, 2023, prohibits any issued placard from bearing the words “parking permit for persons with disabilities.” However, under the bill, any otherwise valid placard issued before this date is valid until it expires.

The bill also requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to check the Department of Public Health’s state death registry at least monthly, rather than periodically as under current law, and cancel placards issued to deceased people identified in the registry, which conforms to current DMV practice.

By August 1, 2023, the bill requires the DMV Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection with jurisdiction over the state police to jointly convene a working group, of which they or their designees are also members, comprised of:

1. two or more licensed physicians, physician assistants, or advanced practice registered nurses whose work includes certifying applications for removable windshield placards;
2. two or more sworn municipal police department members; and
3. any other person they invite to be a member.

The working group must review the status of lifetime removable placards issued prior to January 1, 2010. Regarding the issuance and use of removable placards, the group must (1) review other states’ laws; (2) recommend best practices to the DMV commissioner for clear and concise policies and regulations, including for applying for placards; and (3) make educational materials available to medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and the general public.

The group must submit a report on its findings, the education materials developed, and any recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2024. The bill sunsets the group on this date or its reporting date, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the working group is effective upon passage.

**BACKGROUND**

***DMV Study***

PA 22-44, § 17, required the DMV commissioner to report to the Transportation Committee on the results of her review of other states’ laws and regulations, and any legislative or regulatory recommendations on applying for, issuing, and using removeable windshield placards for people with disabilities or blindness.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/17/2023)