



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 995

January Session, 2023



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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2023*):

4 (a) For the purposes of this section:

5 (1) "Special license plate" means a license plate displaying the
6 symbol of access in a size identical to that of the letters or numerals on
7 the plate and in a color that contrasts with the background color of the
8 plate;

9 (2) "Removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hanger-
10 style placard which bears on both of its sides: (A) The symbol of access
11 in a height of three inches or more centered on such placard and
12 colored white on a blue background; (B) a unique identification
13 number; (C) a date of expiration; [and] (D) a statement indicating that
14 the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles issued such placard;
15 and (E) the words "Accessibility Parking Permit";

16 (3) "Temporary removable windshield placard" means a placard
17 that is the same as a removable windshield placard except that the

18 symbol of access appears on a red background;

19 (4) "Person with disabilities" means a person with disabilities which
20 limit or impair the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2;
21 and

22 (5) "Symbol of access" means the symbol designated by the
23 Commissioner of Administrative Services pursuant to section 29-269b
24 used to indicate access for persons with disabilities.

25 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
26 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
27 *October 1, 2023*):

28 (d) (1) Any placard issued pursuant to this section shall be
29 displayed by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of
30 the vehicle when utilizing a parking space reserved for persons who
31 are blind and persons with disabilities. If there is no rearview mirror in
32 such vehicle, the placard shall be displayed in clear view on the
33 dashboard of such vehicle.

34 (2) On and after October 1, 2023, any placard issued pursuant to this
35 section shall not bear the words "parking permit for persons with
36 disabilities". Any placard issued prior to October 1, 2023, that is
37 otherwise valid, shall remain valid, according to its terms, until the
38 expiration of such placard.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
41 *October 1, 2023*):

42 (o) The commissioner shall [periodically] check the Department of
43 Public Health's state registration of deaths on a monthly basis and
44 shall cancel any placard issued to an individual identified in such
45 registry as deceased.

46 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2023, the

47 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Deputy Commissioner of
48 Emergency Services and Public Protection with jurisdiction over the
49 Division of State Police shall jointly convene a working group to: (1)
50 Review the laws in other states concerning the issuance and use of
51 removable windshield placards for persons who are blind and persons
52 with disabilities, (2) recommend best practices for policies and
53 regulations regarding the application for, and issuance and use of,
54 removable windshield placards, (3) make educational materials
55 available to medical professionals, law enforcement officers and the
56 general public regarding the proper issuance and use of such
57 removable windshield placards, and (4) review the status of such
58 removable windshield placards issued to persons who are blind and
59 persons with disabilities prior to January 1, 2010, for the lifetime of
60 such persons.

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

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