



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Substitute Bill No. 1080**



**AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after July 1, 2023,  
2 the Department of Transportation shall provide for fare-free bus public  
3 transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental  
4 disabilities who receive services from the Department of  
5 Developmental Services. The cost of such transportation services shall  
6 be paid from the funds appropriated to the Department of  
7 Transportation. The Department of Transportation, in coordination  
8 with the Department of Developmental Services, shall make  
9 applications for a fare-free transit identification card available to such  
10 persons. Any such identification card shall include a photograph of  
11 such person.

12 (b) On and after July 1, 2023, the Department of Transportation shall  
13 provide for reduced fares for intrastate rail service by commuter  
14 railroad systems for persons with intellectual or developmental  
15 disabilities who receive services from the Department of  
16 Developmental Services. Such reduced fares shall be one-half the  
17 amount of the fare charged for such rail service by a commuter  
18 railroad system. The cost of such reduced fares shall be paid from the  
19 funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation. The

20 Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of  
21 Developmental Services, shall make applications for an identification  
22 card for reduced fare rail services available to such persons. Any such  
23 identification card shall include a photograph of such person.

24 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Transportation  
25 and Developmental Services, in conjunction with each transit district  
26 established under chapter 103a of the general statutes or any special  
27 act, shall study the demand and need for state-wide and local  
28 transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental  
29 disabilities. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1)  
30 expanding the hours of operation, including the evening hours, for rail  
31 service on commuter railroad systems and state-owned or controlled  
32 bus public transportation services, (2) determining the daily  
33 transportation needs of such persons, including traveling to and from  
34 work, educational facilities, medical appointments, stores and other  
35 places in order to enjoy life's amenities, and (3) a specific analysis of  
36 the transit services provided by each transit district that identifies  
37 locations underserved by such transit district and specific routes for  
38 possible expansion to meet the demand and needs for such transit  
39 services and the costs associated with servicing such locations and  
40 expanding such routes. On or before February 1, 2024, the  
41 commissioners shall submit the results of such study and  
42 recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
43 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
44 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and  
45 human services.

46 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2024,  
47 each transit district established under chapter 103a of the general  
48 statutes or any special act shall develop a process by which an  
49 employer who employs at least ten employees with intellectual or  
50 developmental disabilities or a provider of community-based services  
51 for at least ten persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities  
52 may request the district to construct and maintain a bus stop or shelter

53 at or near such employer's or provider's location. Each transit district  
54 shall post such process in a conspicuous plan on the district's Internet  
55 web site.

56 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2023, the  
57 Department of Developmental Services shall issue a request for  
58 proposals for the provision of nonmedical transportation services for  
59 persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities whose  
60 transportation needs are not currently served by public transportation  
61 in the state. Such nonmedical transportation services shall provide  
62 transportation to and from work, educational facilities, medical  
63 appointments, stores and other places in order for such persons to  
64 enjoy life's amenities.

65 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of  
66 Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Developmental  
67 Services, shall ensure persons with intellectual or developmental  
68 disabilities who receive services from the Department of  
69 Developmental Services have access to any travel training program  
70 funded by the Department of Transportation that provides instruction  
71 on how to safely use commuter railroad systems and bus public  
72 transportation services.

73 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the purposes of this section,  
74 "carrier" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-212 of the  
75 general statutes and "school bus driver" has the same meaning as  
76 provided in section 14-276b of the general statutes. The Department of  
77 Developmental Services, in consultation with the Department of Motor  
78 Vehicles, shall develop and make available to carriers and school bus  
79 drivers online training resources or videos that provide instruction and  
80 best practices concerning ways to appropriately interact with persons  
81 with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The departments shall  
82 post such training resources or videos in a conspicuous place on their  
83 respective Internet web sites.

84 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2023,

85 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall offer appointments to  
86 students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, students with  
87 intellectual or developmental disabilities, for the on-the-road skills test  
88 portion of the examination for a motor vehicles operator's license at  
89 drivers' schools, licensed in accordance with the provisions of section  
90 14-69 of the general statutes. The on-the-road skills test shall be  
91 administered by a motor vehicle inspector agent or an agent of the  
92 commissioner and shall be made available to such students of such  
93 schools who are otherwise eligible to take such test.

94 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
96 *1, 2023*):

97 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications  
98 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)  
99 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with  
100 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or  
101 any person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of  
102 age at the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person  
103 who is blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to  
104 request or complete an application; and (5) any organization which  
105 meets criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to  
106 the commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is  
107 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or  
108 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
109 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept  
110 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal  
111 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.  
112 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section  
113 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's  
114 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions  
115 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations  
116 for the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do  
117 not hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card.

118 The commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to  
119 any such person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be  
120 on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application and  
121 renewal application shall include: (A) Certification by a licensed  
122 physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse  
123 licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member  
124 of the driver training unit for persons with disabilities established  
125 pursuant to section 14-11b, that the applicant meets the definition of a  
126 person with a disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as  
127 defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B) certification by a psychiatrist  
128 who is employed by, or under contract with, the United States  
129 Department of Veterans Affairs that the applicant (i) is a veteran, as  
130 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic  
131 stress disorder certified as service-connected by the United States  
132 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the definition of a  
133 person with a disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as  
134 defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of persons who are blind,  
135 the application or renewal application shall include certification of  
136 legal blindness made by the Department of Aging and Disability  
137 Services, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Any person who  
138 makes a certification required by this subsection shall sign the  
139 application or renewal application under penalty of false statement  
140 pursuant to section 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said  
141 commissioner's discretion, may accept the discharge papers of a  
142 disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, in lieu of such  
143 certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require  
144 additional certification at the time of the original application or at any  
145 time thereafter. If a person who has been requested to submit  
146 additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the request,  
147 or if such additional certification is deemed by the Commissioner of  
148 Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the commissioner  
149 may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or revoke such  
150 special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not issue more  
151 than one placard per applicant, except the commissioner shall issue  
152 one placard to each applicant who is a parent, [or] guardian or

153 caregiver of any person who is blind or any person with disabilities,  
154 provided no more than [two] three such placards shall be issued on  
155 behalf of such person. The fee for the issuance of a temporary  
156 removable windshield placard shall be five dollars. Any person whose  
157 application has been denied or whose special license plate or placard  
158 has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded an opportunity for a  
159 hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |             |
| Section 1   | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 5  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 6  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 7  | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 8  | <i>July 1, 2023</i> | 14-253a(b)  |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3, "January 1, 2023" was changed to "January 1, 2024" for accuracy; and in Section 7, "of such schools" was added for clarity.

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*