

**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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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
30 physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed in
31 accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member of the driver
32 training unit for persons with disabilities established pursuant to
33 section 14-11b, that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a
34 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
35 CFR [Section] 1235.2, as amended from time to time; or (B) certification
36 by a psychiatrist who is employed by, or under contract with, the United
37 States Department of Veterans Affairs that the applicant (i) is a veteran,
38 as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic
39 stress disorder certified as service-connected by the United States
40 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the definition of a person
41 with a disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined
42 in 23 CFR [Section] 1235.2, as amended from time to time. In the case of
43 persons who are blind, the application or renewal application shall
44 include certification of legal blindness made by the Department of
45 Aging and Disability Services, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.
46 Any certification issued by a medical professional pursuant to this
47 section shall be based upon such person's professional opinion after
48 having completed a medically reasonable assessment of the applicant's
49 medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a
50 bona fide health care professional-patient relationship. Any person who
51 makes a certification required by this subsection shall sign the
52 application or renewal application under penalty of false statement
53 pursuant to section 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said commissioner's
54 discretion, may accept the discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as

55 defined in section 14-254, in lieu of such certification. The Commissioner
56 of Motor Vehicles may require additional certification at the time of the
57 original application or at any time thereafter. If a person who has been
58 requested to submit additional certification fails to do so within thirty
59 days of the 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. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
73 "medical professional" means a licensed physician, physician assistant,
74 advanced practice registered nurse licensed in accordance with the
75 provisions of chapter 378 of the general statutes, psychiatrist who is
76 employed by, or under contract with, the United States Department of
77 Veterans Affairs, ophthalmologist or optometrist, (2) "person" has the
78 same meaning as provided in section 14-1 of the general statutes, and
79 (3) "removable windshield placard" has the same meaning as provided
80 in section 14-253a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

81 (b) No medical professional shall charge a fee for the provision of
82 services to an applicant for a removable windshield placard that is
83 contingent on such medical professional certifying that such applicant
84 meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits or impairs
85 the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR 1235.2, as amended from time
86 to time.

87 (c) No medical professional shall enter into any written or oral
88 agreement or understanding with a person who utilizes the services of
89 such medical professional and makes or has the effect of making the
90 amount of the medical professional's commissions, fees or charges
91 contingent upon the medical professional certifying an application or
92 renewal application for a removable windshield placard that an
93 applicant meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits
94 or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR 1235.2, as amended
95 from time to time.

96 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section may be
97 assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars. The
98 Attorney General, upon complaint of the Commissioner of Motor
99 Vehicles, shall institute a civil action to recover such penalty in the
100 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

101 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-253c of the 2024 supplement to the
102 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
103 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

104 (b) The advisory council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of
105 Motor Vehicles or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of
106 Aging and Disability Services or the commissioner's designee, (3) two
107 members appointed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who are
108 licensed physicians, physician assistants or advanced practice registered
109 nurses who certify applications for removable windshield placards
110 while in the course of employment, (4) one member appointed by the
111 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services who represents an
112 organization that advocates on behalf of persons with physical
113 disabilities, (5) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint
114 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
115 matters relating to transportation, [who is a municipality planner,] (6)
116 one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee
117 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
118 transportation, who uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of

119 such users, [of accessible parking,] (7) one appointed by the House
120 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
121 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who
122 uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of such users, [of
123 accessible parking,] (8) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of
124 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
125 cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who is a sworn
126 member of a municipal police department, and (9) and such other
127 members as the advisory council may prescribe. All initial
128 appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later than
129 September 1, 2023. Each member appointed pursuant to subdivisions (3)
130 to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall serve for a term of two years and
131 may serve until such member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy
132 shall be filled by the appointing authority. The Commissioner of Motor
133 Vehicles, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of
134 the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times as it
135 deems necessary and may establish rules governing its internal
136 procedures.

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| 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>October 1, 2024</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | 14-253c(b) |