

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 39

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Transportation)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicle Administration - Disability Parking Placards

This departmental bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a permanent parking placard, rather than a four-year placard, to an individual with a permanent disability. In addition, the bill authorizes MVA to issue a temporary disability parking placard for an out-of-state resident who is disabled and temporarily living in Maryland under specified circumstances.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations in the short term, assuming currently held placards are not reissued as permanent until their expiration.

Local Effect: Local government finances and operations are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Transportation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Permanent Parking Placards

A placard issued for a permanent disability is valid until the death of the placard holder. Upon receipt of notification of the death of the placard holder, MVA must mark the placard

as expired and send notice to the last known address of the placard holder requesting the return of the placard to MVA.

Temporary Parking Placards for Nonresidents

A nonresident temporarily living in the State may apply to MVA for a temporary parking placard if the applicant, a dependent of the applicant, or any individual who depends on the applicant for transportation submits satisfactory proof to MVA that the individual has a specified disability. In addition, the individual must (1) be in Maryland to obtain medical treatment; (2) be serving in the armed forces of the United States and stationed in Maryland; (3) hold a current Maryland nonresident permit; or (4) be subject to any other circumstances requiring the use of a temporary parking placard, as determined by MVA.

Current Law: MVA may provide a temporary or standard parking placard to the owner of a vehicle who submits satisfactory proof of specified medical conditions. A certified nurse practitioner or a licensed physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, or physical therapist must certify that the vehicle owner has a cardiovascular, lung, ambulatory, visual, or other specified disability in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law. The relevant licensing board must maintain a database that allows MVA to verify licensure.

A parking placard issued to a person with a permanent disability is valid for four years and may be renewed on an application approved by MVA.

A temporary parking placard is valid between one and six months, depending upon the recommendation of the individual certifying the disability. (If an extension is required, the individual may apply for an additional period of disability for up to six months with approval of the appropriate clinician.)

Background:

Standard Parking Placards

MVA advises that individuals applying for a disability parking placard have the option of obtaining up to two placards. Currently, 542,748 active parking placards are issued to 349,393 individuals. In fiscal 2017, a total of 139,133 permanent disability parking placards were issued; 137,828 were issued in fiscal 2016.

MVA advises that it is inconvenient for individuals with a permanent disability to have to renew their placards every four years. These individuals must either mail in an application or go to (or have someone else go to) an MVA branch to submit the application. MVA also advises that this process is an administrative inconvenience for personnel. In addition,

as illustrated in **Exhibit 1**, MVA notes that most customers do not return placards that have expired. Under the bill, a permanently disabled individual would only need a replacement placard in the event that their placard is lost, stolen, or damaged – thus reducing the need for expired placards to be returned (except upon the death of the placard holder).

Exhibit 1
Disability Placards Expired and Returned
Fiscal 2014-2016

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Expired Placards</u>	<u>Expired Placards Returned</u>	<u>Deceased Letters Mailed</u>	<u>Deceased Placards Returned</u>	<u>Total Placards Returned</u>
2016	89,782	8,914	13,242	10,284	24,803
2015	114,209	11,491	8,693	9,364	26,095
2014	107,655	11,737	12,284	5,567	22,177

Source: Motor Vehicle Administration

Temporary Parking Placards

MVA also advises that that the State has many out-of-state residents who temporarily reside in Maryland for vacations, temporary job assignments, medical treatment, military service, etc. The bill allows MVA to more readily assist disabled persons temporarily residing in the State when the need arises.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 16, 2018
mm/ljm Third Reader - January 31, 2018

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Motor Vehicle Administration – Disability Placards – Issuance and Period of Validity

BILL NUMBER: SB 39

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of Transportation / Motor Vehicle Administration
(Dept./Agency)

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS