

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 343

(Charles County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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**Motor Vehicles - Parking Lot Spaces for Individuals with Disabilities**

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This bill specifies that only the person who is authorized to use a special registration plate or windshield placard issued to persons with disabilities may park a vehicle in a space reserved for the use of individuals with disabilities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

**Local Effect:** Minimal or none. Local governments advise that the bill has little fiscal impact and could be enforced with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A person may not park a motor vehicle in a space designated for the use of individuals with disabilities unless the vehicle bears a special registration plate, a removable windshield placard, or a temporary removable windshield placard issued by the MVA or by another state, the District of Columbia, or another country.

In order to receive a special plate or placard for individuals with disabilities, a vehicle owner must provide medical certification that the applicant:

- has lung or cardiovascular disease of a certain severity;

- is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;
- is unable to walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, or other assistive device;
- requires a wheelchair for mobility;
- has lost, or lost the use of, a foot or leg;
- has lost, or lost the use of, an arm or a hand; or
- has a permanent impairment of both eyes.

A person who operates a motor vehicle with a special disability registration number or registration plates may not use the privileges granted unless he or she meets the requirements for a disability or is accompanied by a dependent, or an individual who depends on the person for transportation. If the MVA determines that eligibility requirements are not being met, it may revoke the vehicle owner's registration. Furthermore, a person who violates any of these requirements is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$500 under Maryland Vehicle Law.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Caroline County, Calvert County, Howard County, Charles County, Department of General Services, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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