

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 305 (Senator Ruben)  
Judicial Proceedings

---

**Parking for Individuals with Disabilities - Reciprocity - District of Columbia**

---

This bill provides that the authorization to park in restricted areas and not pay parking fees, which is granted to those who are disabled, does not apply to those who are disabled with special registration plates, removable windshield placards, or temporary placards, from the District of Columbia.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in State general fund revenues as a result of additional parking meter fees or parking ticket fines paid by drivers with District of Columbia-issued special license plates, removable windshield placards, or temporary parking placards. Potential increase in special fund expenditures for computer programming modifications.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in revenues as a result of additional parking meter fees or parking ticket fines paid by drivers with District of Columbia-issued special license plates, removable windshield placards or temporary parking placards.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Provisions that authorize those who are disabled with special registration plates, removable windshield placards, or temporary placards from any other state or country to park in spaces reserved for the disabled in Maryland do not apply to those who

are disabled with special registration plates, removable windshield placards, or temporary placards from the District of Columbia.

A person who has a special registration plate, removable windshield placard, or temporary placard issued by the District of Columbia may apply to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) for a temporary parking placard for authorization to park in spaces for the disabled in the State of Maryland. The MVA is authorized to issue a temporary parking placard to an individual from the District of Columbia who otherwise meets the requirements for disabled parking authorization.

The bill's provisions remain in effect until the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) receives notice from the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles indicating that the District of Columbia will recognize valid special registration plates, removable windshield placards, and temporary parking placards for the disabled issued by the State of Maryland. At the end of the fifth day following receipt of the notice, the bill terminates, with no further action required by the General Assembly.

**Current Law:** A person for whom special registration plates are issued under the Maryland Vehicle Law or under a similar provision of any other state or country may park for unlimited periods in restricted parking zones, as specified, and is not required to pay any parking meter fees assessed by the State or any political subdivision where parking meters do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The person may park for twice the maximum time permitted on a parking meter that does meet ADA standards, not to exceed four hours or, if the parking meter permits four hours of parking, for the period permitted on the parking meter. Subject to the posted time restriction, this person may park in a designated zone for the handicapped at any State-owned airport. When displayed, a person with an authorized removable windshield placard issued under the Maryland Vehicle Law or a similar provision of any state or country has the same aforementioned parking privileges.

A person may apply to the MVA for a temporary parking placard if the applicant, a dependent of the applicant, or any individual who depends on the applicant for transportation has a disability, as specified by statute, and a licensed physician, chiropractor, optometrist, or podiatrist certifies that the disability is not permanent, but would substantially impair the applicant's mobility or limit the applicant's ability to walk for at least three weeks and is so severe as to impose a hardship or risk of injury to the applicant if the temporary parking placard were denied.

An application for a temporary parking placard must meet the requirements specified in statute, and be displayed as specified. A person must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in statute and may not commit any fraud or make any misrepresentation in

certifying, applying for, or using a temporary parking placard. The MVA is authorized to review temporary parking placards that are issued and may request review and recommendations from the Medical Advisory Board. The MVA may revoke the temporary parking placard if it determines that eligibility requirements are not being met. The MVA must establish an automated system for recording the issuance, renewal, and expiration of temporary placards, as specified in statute.

**State Expenditures:** The MVA advises that forms revision and reprinting would cost \$4,600. However, DLS advises that MVA forms will routinely require revision due to legislative changes and that forms reprinting is simply a cost of doing business and can be handled within existing resources.

The MVA advises that computer programming modifications would be needed to meet the bill's requirements, resulting in a one-time expenditure of \$50,000 in fiscal 2005. However, DLS advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer programming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the MVA system. Further, DLS advises that the increased computer expenditure is an estimate and that the MVA may be able to handle the changes within existing resources.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A substantially similar bill, HB 738 from the 2003 session, was heard in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, which took no further action.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2004  
ncs/jr

---

Analysis by: Karen D. Morgan

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