

SENATE BILL 907

R4

4lr2203

By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Disability Parking Placards – Photo Identification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration, on request, to issue a
4 disability parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder;
5 requiring a parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder
6 to include a privacy sleeve that allows a person to freely display or hide the color
7 photograph; and generally relating to disability parking placards.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 13–616.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 13–616.1.

17 (a) A person may apply to the Administration for a parking placard on a form
18 provided by the Administration if the applicant:

19 (1) Is a resident of the State; and

20 (2) (i) Has a permanent disability as described in § 13–616(b)(1) of this
21 subtitle and as certified by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, licensed
22 chiropractor, licensed optometrist, licensed podiatrist, or licensed physical therapist, as
23 defined in § 13–616(a) of this subtitle; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Has a permanent disability as described in § 13–616(b)(1)(vi) of
2 this subtitle and as self–certified as provided by § 13–616(b)(2)(iv) of this subtitle.

3 (b) (1) A parking placard for a person with a disability may be issued to an
4 applicant described in subsection (a) of this section only if the applicant submits proof
5 satisfactory to the Administration that the applicant is a person with a disability as
6 described in § 13–616(b) of this subtitle.

7 (2) A parent or legal guardian may apply for a special disability parking
8 placard on behalf of a qualified minor.

9 (c) (1) Except as provided in § 13–616(c) of this subtitle, the Administration
10 may not issue to an applicant:

11 (i) More than one placard if the applicant requests one set of special
12 registration plates under § 13–616 of this subtitle; or

13 (ii) More than two placards if the applicant does not request a set of
14 special registration plates under § 13–616 of this subtitle.

15 (2) Except as provided in § 13–616(c) of this subtitle, the Administration
16 may not issue to a person issued special vehicle registration plates under § 13–616 of this
17 subtitle a combination of special disability registration plates and placards exceeding two.

18 (d) (1) (i) A placard issued under this section to an applicant described in
19 subsection (a) of this section is valid until the death of the placard holder.

20 (ii) On receipt of notification of the death of the placard holder, the
21 Administration shall mark the record of the placard as expired and shall send notice to the
22 last known address of the placard holder requesting the return of the placard to the
23 Administration.

24 (2) If a placard is lost, stolen, or damaged, the placard holder may apply
25 for a replacement placard on an application form and in the manner required by the
26 Administration.

27 (e) (1) A parking placard for a person with a disability shall be issued:

28 (i) Except as provided in item (ii) or item (iii) of this paragraph, in
29 the form of a removable windshield placard capable of being hung from the inside rearview
30 mirror and of a size and design as determined by the Administration;

31 (ii) For a vehicle not equipped with an inside rearview mirror or in
32 which the inside rearview mirror is not visible from the rear of the vehicle, in the form of a
33 windshield placard of a size and design as determined by the Administration; or

1 (iii) For a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle, in the form of a sticker of a
2 size and design as designated by the Administration.

3 (2) A person to whom a parking placard for a person with a disability is
4 issued shall display the placard described in this section:

5 (i) In a Class A (passenger) vehicle or a Class M (multipurpose)
6 vehicle;

7 (ii) On a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle as required by the
8 Administration;

9 (iii) In a Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's
10 rated capacity and specially equipped for the transportation of or operation by an individual
11 with a disability; or

12 (iv) In a Class H, I, or J vehicle that is specially equipped for the
13 transportation of individuals with disabilities and is used exclusively for the transportation
14 of individuals with disabilities.

15 **(3) (I) THE ADMINISTRATION, ON THE REQUEST OF THE PERSON**
16 **TO WHOM THE PARKING PLACARD IS ISSUED, SHALL ISSUE A PARKING PLACARD**
17 **WITH AN EMBEDDED COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PERSON.**

18 **(II) A PARKING PLACARD ISSUED WITH AN EMBEDDED COLOR**
19 **PHOTOGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE A PRIVACY SLEEVE THAT ALLOWS A PERSON TO**
20 **FREELY DISPLAY OR HIDE THE COLOR PHOTOGRAPH.**

21 **(III) A PERSON SHALL DISPLAY THE EMBEDDED COLOR**
22 **PHOTOGRAPH ON A PARKING PLACARD ON THE REQUEST OF:**

23 **1. A POLICE OFFICER, WHILE THE OFFICER IS**
24 **DISCHARGING THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF A POLICE OFFICER; OR**

25 **2. ANY OTHER PERSON AUTHORIZED BY A POLITICAL**
26 **SUBDIVISION TO ENFORCE THIS SECTION, WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF**
27 **THIS AUTHORITY.**

28 **(IV) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL TAKE A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH**
29 **EMBEDDED ON A PARKING PLACARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCEDURE THAT THE**
30 **ADMINISTRATION REQUIRES.**

31 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, when displayed
32 by the person to whom a removable windshield placard is issued, the removable windshield
33 placard shall be hung from the inside rearview mirror when the vehicle is parked.

1 (2) A person may not drive a vehicle while a removable windshield placard
2 described under paragraph (1) of this subsection is hanging from the inside rearview
3 mirror.

4 (3) The removable windshield placard shall be placed inside a vehicle that
5 is not equipped with an inside rearview mirror, in a position from which the removable
6 windshield placard can be viewed from the outside of the vehicle through the lower portion
7 of the windshield on the driver's side of the vehicle.

8 (4) When displayed, the person to whom a removable windshield placard is
9 issued under this section or under a similar provision of law of any state or country is
10 accorded the privileges contained in § 13-616(f) of this subtitle.

11 (g) When using the parking privileges granted under § 13-616(f) of this subtitle:

12 (1) The person shall have in the person's possession identification issued
13 by the Administration as proof that parking privileges are being utilized by a person with
14 a disability as defined in § 13-616(b)(1) of this subtitle; and

15 (2) The person shall make the identification available upon the request of:

16 (i) A police officer, while the officer is discharging the official duties
17 of a police officer; or

18 (ii) Any other person authorized by a political subdivision to enforce
19 this section, while acting within the scope of this authority.

20 (h) (1) A person may not commit any fraud or make any misrepresentation in
21 certifying a person's disability or applying for or using a parking placard for a person with
22 a disability.

23 (2) A person who operates a motor vehicle displaying a parking placard for
24 a person with a disability may not use the privileges granted under this section, unless the
25 person is:

26 (i) A person with a disability who meets the requirements of §
27 13-616(b)(1) of this subtitle; or

28 (ii) Accompanied by a dependent, or an individual who depends on
29 the person for transportation, who meets the requirements of § 13-616(b)(1) of this subtitle.

30 (3) To determine if the eligibility requirements continue to be met, the
31 Administration may conduct a review of a parking placard for a person with a disability
32 that is issued by the Administration under this section and:

1 (i) If the Administration finds it necessary to review the severity or
2 permanency of a placard holder's disability, the Administration may request a review and
3 recommendations from the Medical Advisory Board established under § 16–118 of this
4 article; and

5 (ii) If the Administration determines that eligibility requirements
6 are not being met, the Administration may revoke the parking placard for a person with a
7 disability.

8 (i) The Administration shall:

9 (1) Administer the removable windshield placard program in accordance
10 with the provisions of this section; and

11 (2) By July 1, 2001, establish an automated system for recording the
12 issuance, renewal, and expiration of placards in a timely manner to ensure that the
13 objectives of the placard program are achieved in an efficient and orderly manner.

14 (j) In accordance with the provisions of this section, each board for licensed
15 physicians, licensed physician assistants, licensed chiropractors, licensed optometrists,
16 licensed podiatrists, or licensed physical therapists shall be responsible for the development
17 and maintenance of a database system, with which the Administration can interface and
18 verify licensure.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2024.