

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 907

(Senator Augustine)

Judicial Proceedings

Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), upon request, to issue a parking placard with an embedded color photograph to the person to whom the parking placard is issued. The placard must include a privacy sleeve that allows a person to freely display or hide the color photograph. A person must display the embedded color photograph on a parking placard on the request of (1) a police officer, while the officer is discharging the official duties of a police officer or (2) any other person authorized by a political subdivision to enforce the use of parking placards, while acting within the scope of this authority. MVA must take a color photograph embedded on a parking placard in accordance with a procedure MVA requires.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase beginning in FY 2025, likely by several thousand dollars annually, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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 for a person with a disability must be issued (1) generally, in the form of a removable windshield placard capable of being hung from the inside rearview mirror and of a size and design as determined by MVA; (2) for a vehicle not equipped with an inside rearview mirror or for which the inside rearview mirror is not visible from the rear of the vehicle, in the form of a windshield placard of a size and design as determined by MVA; or (3) for a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle, in the form of a sticker of a size and design as designated by MVA. A person to whom a parking placard for a person with a disability is issued must display the placard in or on specified classes of vehicles.

The holder of special disability registration plates is afforded specified parking privileges, including the authorization to generally park for unlimited periods in parking zones restricted as to the length of parking time permitted.

State Expenditures: MVA advises that 379,075 individuals have a permanent disabled parking placard and about 40 % of them (150,632) do not own a vehicle. Of the remaining 228,443 who do own a vehicle, 18% possess disabled special registration plates, while the remainder do not. Over the past two fiscal years, an average of 45,098 individuals were issued permanent disability placards annually and 55% of them had their request processed at a branch office (while the rest were processed through alternative service delivery methods).

At a minimum, in order to meet the bill's requirements, MVA advises new printing hardware is needed (at a cost of approximately \$3,000) and that all requests for such a placard at a branch office would have to be forwarded to and fulfilled by the MVA print shop. However, this estimate does not include additional supplies that may need to be purchased on an ongoing basis (*e.g.*, ink, cardstock paper, etc.) or the cost of postage to send the placard to the owner. Also, MVA is unable to estimate the exact cost of the privacy sleeve, but this requirement further increases the cost for each placard. In total, MVA anticipates the cost to *print* each placard could total about \$3.00. Thus, if 5,000 placards are issued pursuant to the bill's authorization, TTF expenditures increase by at least \$18,000 in fiscal 2025, which includes the printing hardware, with additional costs for the privacy sleeve and postage. To the extent demand is greater or less than anticipated, costs increase or decrease commensurately.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2024
rh/ljm

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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