

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 61

Short Title: Guardian/Parent Authorized Plate. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators J. Davis, McInnis, J. Jackson (Primary Sponsors); Garrett, Marcus, and Mohammed.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 14, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF HANDICAPPED LICENSE PLATES TO A  
3 REGISTERED VEHICLE OWNER THAT IS THE GUARDIAN OR PARENT OF A  
4 HANDICAPPED PERSON.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-37.5 reads as rewritten:

7 "...

8 (1a) Guardian. – Any of the following:

9 a. Custodian. – As defined in G.S. 7B-101(8).

10 b. General Guardian. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(7).

11 c. Guardian of the person. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(10).

12 ...."

13 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-37.6 reads as rewritten:

14 "...

15 (b) ~~Handicapped Car Owners; Distinguishing License Plates. – If the handicapped person~~  
16 ~~is a registered owner of a vehicle, vehicle is handicapped or the registered owner certifies that~~  
17 ~~the registered owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person, the registered owner may~~  
18 ~~apply for and display a distinguishing license plate. This license plate shall be issued for the~~  
19 ~~normal fee applicable to standard license plates. Any vehicle owner who qualifies for a~~  
20 ~~distinguishing license plate shall be notified by the Division at the time the plate is issued that~~  
21 ~~the applicant is also eligible to receive one removable windshield placard and, upon request, shall~~  
22 ~~be issued a placard at that time. A vehicle with a distinguishing license plate may be lawfully~~  
23 ~~used when a handicapped person is not a driver or passenger so long as the vehicle is not using~~  
24 ~~handicapped privileges including parking in a space designated with a sign pursuant to subsection~~  
25 ~~(d) of this section.~~

26 (c) ~~Handicapped Drivers and Passengers; Distinguishing Placards. – A handicapped~~  
27 ~~person may apply for the issuance of a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable~~  
28 ~~windshield placard. Upon request, one additional placard may be issued to applicants who do not~~  
29 ~~have a distinguishing license plate. Any organization which, as determined and certified by the~~  
30 ~~State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, regularly transports handicapped persons may also~~  
31 ~~apply. These organizations may receive one removable windshield placard for each transporting~~  
32 ~~vehicle. When the removable windshield or temporary removable windshield placard is properly~~  
33 ~~displayed, all parking rights and privileges extended to vehicles displaying a distinguishing~~  
34 ~~license plate issued pursuant to subsection (b) shall apply. The removable windshield placard or~~  
35 ~~the temporary removable windshield placard shall be displayed so that it may be viewed from~~



1 the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of a  
2 vehicle using a parking space allowed for handicapped persons. When there is no inside rearview  
3 mirror, or when the placard cannot reasonably be hung from the rearview mirror by the  
4 handicapped person, the placard shall be displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard. A  
5 removable windshield placard placed on a motorized wheelchair or similar vehicle shall be  
6 displayed in a clearly visible location. The Division shall establish procedures for the issuance  
7 of the placards and may charge a fee sufficient to pay the actual cost of issuance, but in no event  
8 less than five dollars (\$5.00) per placard. The Division shall issue a placard registration card with  
9 each placard issued to a handicapped person. The registration card shall bear the name of the  
10 person to whom the placard is issued, the person's address, the placard number, and an expiration  
11 date. The registration card shall be in the vehicle in which the placard is being used, and the  
12 person to whom the placard is issued shall be the operator or a passenger in the vehicle in which  
13 the placard is displayed.

14 (c1) Application and Renewal; Medical Certification. – The initial application for a  
15 distinguishing license plate, removable windshield placard, or temporary removable windshield  
16 placard shall be accompanied by a certification of a licensed physician, a licensed  
17 ophthalmologist, a licensed optometrist, a licensed physician assistant, a licensed nurse  
18 practitioner, or the Division of Services for the Blind that the applicant or person in the applicant's  
19 custody or care is handicapped or by a disability determination by the United States Department  
20 of Veterans Affairs that the applicant or person in the applicant's custody or care is handicapped.  
21 For an initial application for a temporary removable windshield placard only, the certification  
22 that the applicant is handicapped may be made by a licensed certified nurse midwife. The  
23 application for a temporary removable windshield placard shall contain additional certification  
24 to include the period of time the certifying authority determines the applicant will have the  
25 disability. Distinguishing license plates shall be renewed annually, but subsequent applications  
26 shall not require a medical certification that the applicant is ~~handicapped~~. ~~handicapped, except~~  
27 ~~that a registered owner that certified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that the registered~~  
28 ~~owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person must recertify every five years.~~  
29 Removable windshield placards shall be renewed every five years, and, except for a person  
30 certified as totally and permanently disabled at the time of the initial application or a prior  
31 renewal under this subsection, the renewal shall require a medical recertification that the person  
32 is handicapped; provided that a medical certification shall not be required to renew any placard  
33 that expires after the person to whom it is issued is 80 years of age. Temporary removable  
34 windshield placards shall expire no later than six months after issuance.

35 ...."

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective February 1, 2020.